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MEMOIR

BY

JACOB CHRISTIAAN PIELAT

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MEMOIR

LEFT BY

JACOB CHRISTIAAN PIELAT

TO HIS SUCCESSOR,

DIEDERIK VAN DOMBURG,

1734.

Translated by SOPHIA PIETERS,
Dutch Translator.

With an Introduction and Notes by the Government Archivist.

'S-GRAVENHAGE
MARTINUS NIJHOFF

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following memoir, left by Jacob Christiaan Pielat for the guidance of his successor, Diederick van Domburg, is neither one of the earliest of the series of memoirs of Dutch Governors extant, nor is it one of the largest or most comprehensive; but it may, I think, be reckoned among the more important of these documents, on account of the status and authority of the compiler, as well as of the circumstances attending his appointment to the Government. Pielat's position in Ceylon, as Special Commissioner, was higher than that of Governor. As he himself states in his Memoir, "the appointment by the Supreme Government (of India) of a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Island was an unusual one." Only two other instances of such appointments are recorded during the Dutch occupation of Ceylon, and these occurred during the early years of their rule. Pielat's appointment in 1732 was induced by a state of affairs which required a strong head and a strong hand to cope with. From 1726 to 1729 the Island was governed by the infamous Petrus Vuyst. During his three years of misrule and tyranny, accompanied by acts of murder and treason, discipline both among the civil and the military, the administration of justice, and the smooth working of the various departments were sadly interfered with. When he was removed to Batavia, where he was tried and ignominiously executed, Stephanus Versluys was sent here with instructions to restore order and see that justice was done to the sufferers. But his rule did not give satisfaction either to the inhabitants of the country or to the authorities at Batavia. His attitude towards the officers of the Government brought about dissensions, and the Government of India had already resolved to remove him, naming the Commandeur of Galle, Diederick van Domburg, as his successor. The resistance offered to van Domburg's assumption of duties by several officers of the Government, and the necessity he was put to to appeal to Batavia, will be found referred to in the footnote to page 4.

It has not been convenient, for various reasons, to publish the memoirs of the Dutch Governors in consecutive order. It would be sufficient to state that some of the manuscripts have been found to be in a bad condition, while others, owing to their ancient and peculiar caligraphy, require considerable time and labour to decipher. The whole series of these memoirs and the memoirs of the Commandeurs of the principal stations in the Island are now being translated by Miss Pieters, who has been specially appointed to make translations of the most important of the Dutch records. It is to be hoped that the information contained in these quaint and interesting documents, so long buried among the archives, will before long be available to the English reader.

R. G. ANTHONISZ.

Colombo, August 8, 1903.

MEMOIR or Report on the state of this Government and other matters relating thereto, compiled by the undersigned Jacob Christiaan Pielat, Extraordinary Councillor of India and Commissioner on behalf of the Honourable the Government of Batavia, and left by him on his departure from the Island for the guidance, as far as possible and pending further orders, of his successor, Diederick van Domburg, Governor and Director of this important Island.

SIR,—WHEREAS it has pleased our authorities at Batavia to send Your Excellency here by the vessel that has just arrived from the Bay of Galle on its way to the Netherlands to succeed me in the rule of this valuable and important Government, as decided upon by Their High Mightinesses the Directors of the East India Company; and as they have also, after expressing their great satisfaction with my work as Commissioner, allowed me to return to Their Excellencies; I should perhaps have easily excused myself from the task of compiling a memoir or account of my residence here, because I could have hardly gained during this short period sufficient experience relating to all matters concerning the Company as to be able to instruct Your Excellency; the more so, as I do not resign this Government to one who has newly arrived here, or is a novice in matters relating to the Company, but to one who, by long service as Dessave of Matara and Commandeur of Galle, is sure to have a full knowledge of the basis on which this Government should be carried on. Yet for many good reasons, and on account of the fact that the appointment by our Supreme Government of a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Island is an unusual one, I have considered it desirable before my departure hence to leave to Your Excellency such a memoir as this. I have accordingly prepared it in compliance with the latest instructions received by us, without deeming it necessary to recapitulate the manner in which the Company had conquered this valuable Island and its dependencies, or how it had by God's mercy ruled it thus far, or, again, by what right we have settled here. These are matters which may be found treated of in the memoirs and other documents left by former Governors. It seemed to me, besides, that if such details were required, they could be furnished in a more satisfactory way by those who had

resided here for longer periods and had gained more knowledge of these circumstances than myself. I will, therefore, not treat of the mode of Government of the country, or the rule over the natives, or of their laws and customs, as all these must be matters within the knowledge of Your Excellency. I will, on the other hand, state the condition in which I found this Government, and mention the most important occurrences during my Commission, as also the state of the Government on my retirement from it; at the same time occasionally expressing my opinion with regard to points which require special attention, if the Government is to be carried on successfully.

The principal reasons which induced the Government of Batavia in the year 1732 to decide on appointing me Special Commissioner are no doubt known to Your Excellency; because they are to be found stated in detail in the letter written by Your Excellency and the Council of Galle to Their High Mightinesses on the 31st July of that year* and despatched by the chialoup "Cornelia Anthonia." In agreement with these are the advices sent during the same month from Colombo to Batavia by the yacht "Colombo." I will, therefore, not enter upon a repetition of these matters, but only state that I arrived here on the 2nd December, 1732, and found that, although the Company's affairs generally were taking their usual course, the Government of the Island was in a state of great confusion, not only owing to the dissensions which had arisen between the Council of Galle and the Government here at that time, but also owing to the maladministration which had crept in during the last few years. In my opinion this was chiefly caused by the continual deterioration in the capacities of the Company's principal officers. For some time their appointments had been subject to many changes, so that they had no opportunity to qualify themselves or cause their subordinates do so, and thus perform their duties in a proper manner, or to replace those persons

* Neither this letter, unfortunately, nor the resolutions of the Political Council of Galle of this date are preserved; but the correspondence between the seat of Government at Colombo and the Commandeur of Galle and his Council throw sufficient light upon the circumstances. The Supreme Government of India had decided for certain reasons to recall the Governor Stephanus Versluys and to appoint as his successor Commandeur Diederick van Domburg of Galle. Versluys, who appears to have been unfriendly towards van Domburg, took advantage of a proviso in the letter from Their Honours at Batavia and refused to give over the Government to van Domburg. He summoned Commandeur Gualterus Woutersz of Jaffnapatam to administer the Government on his departure, pending further instructions from the Council of India. Van Domburg, who, on proceeding to Colombo, found the gates of the castle closed against him, had to return to Galle and make his complaint to his superiors at Batavia.

who were unfit by capable men. As this scandal caused great confusion and inefficiency in the service, it has been one of the chief points which Their Honours had recommended to my notice, and which they specially desired me to first of all see remedied. This I have done to the best of my power, and as far as time and circumstances permitted. Much yet remains to be done, and it will take considerable time before everything is arranged on a sound basis ; because all the old and evil practices can be but gradually discovered in this extensive Government, and therefore new and better ones have to be introduced, and these also only gradually. I have experienced great difficulty in this matter, because every one here performs his duties as well as he is able to ; and, during the short period I have been here, I have not been able to bring about all the necessary changes. Your Excellency must gradually accustom the officers to a strict performance of their various duties. It may be necessary to issue a special order to all those who have been furnished with instructions for their guidance to submit these to Your Excellency, so that you may note down in the margin any new rules which are to be observed or any of the old ones which are to be omitted, stating the reason in each case. After further consideration, and with due regard to time and circumstances, such permanent rules may be framed for the guidance of the officers as Your Excellency may find necessary in order to put the Company's service on an orderly and systematic basis. This, in my opinion, will prevent many of the abuses which at present are almost daily committed here. No Governor can prevent these unless he is well acquainted with all that relates to the department of each of the officers. New rules or any alterations or amplifications must be submitted to the Government at Batavia for approval. (1)*

As I observed shortly after my arrival that the Chief Administrator† assumes the authority of directing affairs, although this is undoubtedly reserved in all Governments to the Governor alone, I wished to make a beginning with this officer, as being one of the highest officials, and to compel him to perform his duties in the way I considered proper, and as I found it done in the Moluccas, and as I learned it is usual in other Governments. I found quite a different course followed here. This officer signed all orders on his own responsibility and without my knowledge, in so far as the

* These numbers refer to the comments on this memoir by the Council of India given at the end of the book.

† This was the *Hoofd Administrateur*, the chief revenue officer of the Government, who took precedence in the Political Council of Ceylon next after the Commandeurs of Jaffnapatam and Galle

amount of the articles issued on those orders did not exceed that issued in the years 1710 to 1715. His Excellency the late Governor, Isaac Augustin Rumpf, had given orders in the year 1722 that all articles issued during that year to the counting-houses, administrators, work-masters, &c., might in future be issued every year, but no more. Most likely this was done because at that time the quantity in demand had reached its maximum, but the good intentions of Governor Rumpf have been misinterpreted. How prejudicial this has been to the Company has been expressed in the resolutions passed by the Political Council and myself on this subject at the meeting of the 29th July last year, as also in the letters sent to Batavia and Holland in August and November last, the latter of which was indicted and signed by Your Excellency. I would write this memoir more compendiously if I did not consider it necessary to enter into detail in order to show how prejudicial the former arrangement is for the Company, though it apparently was introduced with the best intentions. The rule of issuing the same quantity of articles every year is wrong—first, because, for instance, the same amount of writing is not always done, nor is the number of repairs needed every year fixed, nor the number of ships to be loaded or unloaded, nor is the quantity of medicines required for the hospital the same every year.

Secondly, I found that the last financial year had hardly expired when all those who had received the full supply as specified for the years 1710–1715 actually came for orders for a half or a quarter of the supply due for the next year. These orders would certainly have been signed by the Chief Administrator, and the articles issued, if I had not beforehand given instructions to the contrary. I did so because I found that the full amount of articles had been drawn, whether required or not, the surplus being appropriated by those who received it, while the same people would send orders to me for signature, as they had done to the former Governors, for an extra supply of those articles of which the supply was not sufficient. As the articles were really required the orders had to be signed, which is a clear proof that such a rule is of no advantage to the Company.

Thirdly, this rule appears to me most absurd. In order not to be too prolix I will quote here only a few instances by way of proof. According to this arrangement not a single sheet of blue scribbling paper can be issued to the Secretariat, while ten quires are allowed to the Trade Office and five quires to the Pay Office. Not a single sheet of Persian vamp may be issued to the Dutch hospital, while ten pieces are issued to the Surgeon in the town. Many other such instances may be given, which time and space do not permit

me to do here, as I have to treat of many other subjects. Your Excellency would find more of this in the document referring to the subject, kept here at the *Visite Comptoir** (Search or Inspection Office). (2)

For these various reasons I proposed at the meeting of the Political Council on the 5th of February last that we should write to Batavia for instructions as to whether the Governors ought not to sign all orders without exception. This was done when the complete advices of the 10th February were sent, but I did not fill in all particulars, as it was possible that I had not followed the right course. I simply asked for the opinion of Their Honours. No answer has yet been received. They asked, in their esteemed letter of 23rd May, for further information on the subject, and to our letter of 25th August in answer thereto we cannot expect a reply till next June or July, so that, pending further instructions, the procedure introduced by me, to be found in the resolutions of the Political Council of 7th September, must be followed provisionally. It was there agreed that application for requisites should be made to the Chief Administrator with a specification as to the purpose for which they were required. I also instructed the Chief Surgeon of the Castle here to enter the number of patients under his supervision at the time. I instructed the Chief Administrator to submit these applications to me or to the Governor for the time being before the orders were made out. I hope by this means to prevent all unnecessary waste until the receipt of further instructions on this subject. On my arrival at Batavia I could, if necessary, explain more fully that the Governor, in his capacity of Director, ought to sign such orders instead of the Chief Administrator, as is done in all other Eastern possessions, and as I am told it is in Coromandel, where these matters are conducted in a far more regular way than I have seen it done here. In order to prevent as much as possible such irregularities a resolution was passed on the 24th of December that in the headings of the applications it must be stated for what purpose the articles are required, so that this may be seen at a glance. (3)

At the same time I do not think it the proper thing that the sale accounts of the ships arriving here should be examined by the Chief Administrator and then submitted to the Governor or otherwise to the Council, as I have seen it done during my residence here. I would consider it much more business-like if such were done at the *Visite Comptoir* by the *Visitateur* (Inspecting Officer) before being submitted

* This is an office which corresponded in many respects to the Audit Office. It occupied a chamber or building which stood on the site of St. Andrew's Church in Prince street.

to Council. Not only these, but also all other accounts and documents should be examined in that office. I have been informed that this used to be in fact the practice formerly. This is the reason that Your Excellency, in conjunction with myself and the whole of the Council, passed a resolution on the 24th of December that this work should be done in future by the *Visitateur*, so that on the occurrence of any excesses the matter may be submitted to Your Excellency with a view to its being adjusted, and thus prevent such mistakes as those that have lately been discovered. (4)

I can think of no better course than for Your Excellency to remind the Chief Administrator and all other officers of their duty, and, on receipt of orders from Holland and Batavia, to issue the necessary extracts to all concerned. I think it would be well for Your Excellency to issue these yourself, because I have noticed several times that when some one had made a mistake or had forgotten something, he did not hesitate to deny the receipt of the extract of the instructions requiring or not the performance of the act, while on investigation it often appeared from the letters at the Secretariat that these instructions had been issued, and that in the margin of the letters it had been noted down to whom the extracts had been issued. This is the reason that I have several times in the presence of Your Excellency, both in the Political Council and outside it, delivered personally the extracts to those concerned with a view to prevent this being done twice over and the work of the Secretary thus increased. (5)

I will not here repeat how Their Honours have been lately pleased to instruct us with regard to the report on the Trade Accounts, and as to what is to be observed with regard to these accounts or when they must be completed, because Your Excellency has read the instructions as contained in the esteemed letter from Batavia of 2nd October last. (6) It will be only necessary for me to recommend to Your Excellency the making of every endeavour to enforce the strict execution of their orders, and especially to see that the subordinate officers both at the *Negotie* (Trade) and the *Visite Comptoir* do not delay this work, but that it is submitted every year on the last of February, so as to be submitted with the complete advices for Their Honours' approval and rescription. I trust that a strict observance of the above rules will have the desired effect. These rules have apparently not been observed until now, for which reason I have considered it necessary to specially mention them. I also refer to the memoir of the late Governor, Mr. Cornelis Simonsz, to his successor, the Honourable Hendrik Becker, handed over in Council on the 10th December, 1707, where

I found that the former had not only given such instructions for the guidance of the Chief Administrator here, but had even signed them and handed them to him on the 19th November of the same year. As I could not understand how matters came to be conducted in such a complicated way I ordered that this document should be searched for at the Secretariat, but it was not to be found, though it certainly ought to have been there, and, moreover, it had not even been registered. It was not even to be found among the papers of the Chief Administrator, who informed me that most of the officers assume the duties of their posts with scarcely any instructions, these documents not having been transferred for many years, so that many may have got lost. This must no doubt cause great confusion. It is therefore necessary that Your Excellency should carefully investigate the matter, acting in future upon the foregoing suggestions. I must not forget to mention that I obtained the above-mentioned instructions at last from a private individual.* It was not signed, so I sent a copy of it to Batavia together with a letter dated 25th August, because in the register of letters and documents sent there was no proof that these instructions, like other measures introduced by Governor Simonsz, had been submitted to Their Honours for approbation. Their Honours will no doubt let you know what instructions had been given for the work of the Chief Administrator, and how they want this office to be filled in future, either according to the instructions in question or according to those given by the Honourable Mr. van Goens, senior, or with such alterations as Their Honours will be pleased to make in both these documents. (7)

The carelessness in the administration of justice, which I noticed soon after my arrival here, made me think seriously of discovering some means of redress, because I knew that at the Secretariat of the Court are preserved the proper instructions from Batavia, while later orders would also no doubt be kept there. On the other hand, I was aware that our illustrious and mighty superiors do not approve of Civil Servants concerning themselves with judicial affairs, and therefore did not wish to give any positive orders or rules to this Court. Yet I could not conscientiously look on any longer at the informal and prolix manner of procedure which seems to have been introduced here, which not only greatly enhances the punishment of criminal prisoners on account of their long preliminary detention, although the

* The original memoir with the autograph signature of Governor Simonsz is now among the archives, but a few pages of the commencement are missing. Valentyn reproduces a somewhat condensed edition of this memoir in *Byzondere Zaaken van Ceylon*, pp. 341 to 351.

punishment may often be well deserved, but it also prolongs unnecessarily other processes between private persons. For this reason a resolution was passed on my proposal with regard to this matter, which may be found in detail in the resolutions of 7th September at Colombo. This was communicated to the said Court by the despatch of 17th October, to which the Court replied by their despatch of the 23rd following, expressing gratitude for the advice offered and forwarding of the papers, and saying that the proposed measures were feasible and would be observed as far as possible. One of the proposals was that all members should be present on certain days of the week. (8) But as during the time that the estimates are being made up many of the permanent members are otherwise engaged in the Company's service, as I have been informed is the case in Jaffnapatam and Galle, I think it will be necessary for Your Excellency to send to these *Commandements** extracts of the said resolutions of 7th September and 30th October. These extracts have already been drawn up for the purpose at the Secretariat. The Company's representatives there must be authorized to appoint some special members in times of emergency in addition to the permanent members, which in my opinion ought in such cases to be done here also, and which I did as Your Excellency knows. (9)

I have also ordered that two Kaffirs should be employed day and night at the prison for the guarding of criminals, as may be seen in the resolutions of Council of the 7th September last, because I was informed that this is done everywhere, including the two *Commandements* mentioned above, but that it was not done here, the custody of prisoners being entrusted entirely to the jailer, which seems to me to be a mistake. (10) I also saw with great displeasure the authority which the former Fiscals took upon themselves. They not only used the ordinary prison, but also detained all sorts of people in the *Moremandoe*† or Lascoreen station, according to their whim and pleasure, until they paid the demanded fine, and sometimes flogged them in case of non-payment—all this being done on the sole authority of the Fiscal, without the knowledge of the Chief Ruler or the President of the Court of Justice. It has been always the rule that the detention of any one for longer than twenty-four hours must be reported, and I have instructed the present Fiscal not to imprison or punish any one without my knowledge. Your Excellency is recommended to make this officer observe the rules laid down by the resolutions of Council here of 13th

* By *Commandement* was meant the jurisdiction of a Commandeur. There were two such *Commandements*, viz., those of Jaffnapatam and Galle.

† *Mura-maduwa* (Sing.) = guard house.

March, 1704, with a view to prevent, as far as possible, all extortion and peculation against the inhabitants, and extra or heavier fines being exacted from them than those which are due according to the placaats issued on this and other subjects. (11)

Experience has proved the deplorable effects of the unwarranted authority exercised by subordinate officers, and how they have tried to conceal the unlawful actions carried on by them for a long time back, and in which they had succeeded to a certain extent. They always referred to the verbal instructions of the late ruler, although no written evidence of them was to be found, and it is quite possible that they were given with a different intention from that in which they have been observed. These documents having been since discovered, it appears that the instructions had been improperly carried out, so that those who gave them could not be held responsible for the results; while again the officers always had an opportunity of excusing themselves by laying all faults on the late or departed rulers. As I saw some examples of this shortly after my arrival here, I took, from the beginning, the precaution to have all matters which seemed of any importance, or which I thought might become so in future, brought forward in the resolutions of Council. I think Your Excellency would do well to follow the same plan, both in order to be able to refer to these resolutions when any difficulty arose, and to show in doing so that you do not base your Government on your own authority and dignity alone, although these are considerable here; but that the necessary rules are made with the advice of Council, and that despotic authority, which does not become a subordinate Governor, of which such disastrous and sad effects have been seen in this Island, has been entirely abandoned. These facts cannot be unknown to Your Honour, because too many sad instances of it occurred during your residence under this Government. It is to be hoped that it will be no longer necessary to send away from here to Batavia so many unhappy officials as was the case especially since the year 1730, by which the Company was deprived of many capable subjects, which in my opinion was caused by the supreme authority which some of the chief rulers here assumed, while the lesser officials were almost forced out of complaisance to approve of their whims and passions if they did not wish to run the risk of ruining themselves and their families.* In these circumstances it is advisable

* The allusion here is to the tyrannical rule of Governor Petrus Vuyst, who was removed from office and tried and executed at Batavia in 1729. His Government was followed by that of Stephanus Versluys, who was also recalled in 1732.

that Your Excellency should rule here according to the above instructions, bringing all matters affecting the interests of the Company before the Political Council and cultivating such qualities as make a good Governor, which consist in being kind and accessible to everyone without distinction, and of granting audience to all who apply for it, so that you may be respected as a ruler and honoured as a father. In order to attain this object you must not be passionate or hasty, nor listen to tale-bearing. If one man accuses another you should call both parties before you and investigate the matter. I am sure that if Your Excellency would follow such suggestions as I have mentioned tale-bearers will soon refrain from their practices, so that you will rule in peace; because I have observed during my residence here that many of the officials are prompted by hatred and jealousy to slander and ruin each other, especially when they see that their bad reports are received favourably by the person in authority. But as Your Excellency will understand these matters even better than I through your long residence in this Island, I will not enlarge on this subject any further, while experience will teach you more and more. I will *en passant*, by way of precaution, mention here that it is very likely that Your Excellency more than others will be troubled by tale-bearers, because there will be many who harbour grudges against some persons and will try to rouse your resentment towards them, especially if they should be indulged. I therefore advise you as a friend, now that it has pleased the Government of India at Batavia to send you here as Governor and Director (in which dignity I have already installed you in spite of the objections raised to your appointment by the former ministry), to leave the past alone and to bear no grudge nor revenge yourself against any one; but rather to follow the example of Henry the Fourth, King of France and Navarre, who, when prompted to take revenge for the wrongs done to him as Duke of Orleans, answered: "It does not become the King of France to take revenge for wrong done to the Duke of Orleans." I am sure that you will find the following of this friendly advice and the example just given most effectual in your career.

But since the success of a Governor depends also to a great extent on promoting the interests of his lords and masters, and as I think that the title of Director* has been specially added to that dignity to empower him to direct the Company's trade with all its appendages and appurtenances, I must recommend to Your Excellency, as one of the most important

* The full title of the Governor was, "Governor and Director of the Island of Ceylon and its dependencies." These dependencies included the "*Inchiados*," the stations and factories on the south coast of India.

points to be observed, the practice of great economy, which is especially necessary here, where the expenses are so much heavier than anywhere in the other stations in India, on account of its great extent. A systematic and careful management will prevent many small but unnecessary expenses. It would take too long to specify here all the ways in which expenditure might be cut down, and I myself am not able to do this, as I did not succeed in making all the changes I wished to, although every possible effort was made. Your Excellency will find in the Colombo resolutions of 11th August and 7th September last that I made some reforms with regard to the horses, as also with regard to the accounting for the empty barrels and the lead with which some of the boxes are lined in which goods are sent from the Netherlands, and other matters which I will not mention here because they may be found in the resolutions referred to. Although these reforms are apparently of little importance, yet, "many a little makes a mickle,"* and if economy were observed in all small matters, a good deal would be saved yearly. Your Excellency must therefore prevent all unnecessary expenditure, so as to be true to the promise made in our letter of 30th November last sent to the Netherlands. (12)

Although in my farewell letter the present condition of this Government has been sufficiently explained, so that Your Excellency will learn all about it, yet I must not fail to remind you of the resolution passed on the 19th March of last year with regard to the restoration of the impaired fortifications and the Company's warehouses and dwelling-houses. The repair of many of these had been commenced, but all have not been completed, as you may find stated in particular in the map which I had prepared, a copy of which has been sent both to the Netherlands and to Batavia, and where will also be found the statements of the heads of the Department of Works. These statements must be compared with the report of the Committee who inspected the defective buildings with a view to see what would have to be first done. (13)

The naval store-house, as being most necessary, must be repaired as soon as possible, and next to that the houses of the Company's servants, which are in a bad condition, especially those within this castle. This being done, new beams must be fixed in the roof of the Dutch Church.†

* "*Veel kleentjes een groot maken.*"

† This was the old church in the Fort, built by the Portuguese, which stood on the site of the present Gordon Gardens. It was finally given up as a place of public worship after the building of Wolvendal Church, when it continued to be used only as the burial place of the Governors and high officials.

These beams have been ready for a long time, but could not be brought here from Galle through want of room in the ships, as they have to be brought in a ship that has a gangway for heavy cargo. They must be fetched at the first opportunity, together with the timber for Matara which Commandeur Maten has applied for.

The quantity of gunpowder in store last August both here and in the Commandements and subordinate outstations may be found stated in my general transfer, where an accurate account of the provision for defence of the Company's castles and fortresses at that date, as also of the ordnance, ammunition of war, and all the Company's vessels, such as yachts, *chialoups*,* boats, &c., will also be found stated, so that no special mention need be made of them here. According to the promise in our last letter to the Fatherland, the number of ships must be supplemented by the building of some new ones, but the sum granted for this purpose must not be exceeded. The successive concessions of the Honourable the Indian Government must be looked up in the letters received here from Batavia with a view to see how many more ships could be built. One vessel could be always kept on the stocks here and one in Galle, as both these yards are available at present. Their High Mightinesses have also consented to the building of a new vessel instead of the wrecked *chialoup* "Elizabeth," and the Commandement of Jaffnapatam has still not been provided with a new vessel in place of the *chialoup* of the same name which was put aside in 1730, although permission for its replacement had already been obtained then. Tuticorin also requires another *chialoup* in place of the "Johanna," which is old and worn out and must be put aside as requested by the officials of the station. (14)

I also feel obliged to remind Your Excellency to occasionally visit the ramparts and fortifications with the Military Captain, the Master of the Workmen and of the Engineers, as I did along with you. I consider it the duty of a Governor to whom such an important conquest has been entrusted to now and then show himself on the ramparts and thus gain the regard and affection of the Military. The Governor should also from time to time pay surprise visits to the hospital, so as to see what food the poor patients get and how they are treated, as you have seen me do during your stay here, and which is done in Batavia by two members of Council. I think it would be well if Your Excellency would continue this practice. You might also sometimes inspect the arsenal, the workshops, store-houses, and wharfs,

* Sloops. These were mostly used in coastwise navigation.

because by such visits the respective masters of the workshops, administrators, purveyors, and governors of the hospitals are kept up to the mark, for our Dutch proverb says very truly: "The eye of the master fattens the horse."*

In the successive resolutions passed during my rule here Your Excellency will find the regulations and placaats introduced and the grounds for them. These include one relating to the clerks (*pennisten*) employed in the various offices, one with regard to the military and one to the trainbands (*burgerye*), the two latter having been passed since your arrival and with your advice, the former previously, because I found many irregularities among them. The Captain of the trainbands, Dirk Blankert, assured me several times that there were no regulations for them, which I could not understand. I therefore had the whole Secretariat searched and found "instructions" for the trainband, bearing date 19th November, 1659, which contained several praiseworthy rules, but also many which are no longer applicable, so that it was better to introduce these new regulations, in which the original instructions and statutes from Batavia retain their full force, with only such alterations as were necessary owing to change of time and circumstance. As Your Excellency is aware the trainbands (burghers) are enrolled and appointed together with the *pennisten*† under the Administrator, who is usually the Captain of both these forces. I have been informed that the same is the case in Jaffnapatam. I leave it to Your Honour's consideration whether it would be well to introduce the same regulations also there, in which case they might also be sent to the other two Commandements and to the subordinate stations.

The placaats referred to above, which are five in number, are dated 5th February, 25th and 30th March, and 29th June of last year and the 13th of the current month. The first of these, issued in compliance with the orders of Their High Mightinesses, refers to the Dutch *duyten*.‡ It was passed by the late Governor Stephanus Versluys and his Council in 1731, whereby five *duyten* were made to equal a double *stuyver*. while afterwards these double *stuyvers* were circulated at eight *duyten*. The last of these placaats deals with the abrogation of a placaat issued on the 26th May, 1732, relating to

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* "*Het oog van de meester maakt het paard vet.*"

† These, also described as "*zoldaat by de pen*," were young men enrolled as soldiers, but employed and attached to the various civil offices as clerks. They were called upon to perform military service in time of war.

‡ The *duit* was an old Dutch copper coin, of which eight went to make a *stuiver* (stiver). The variations referred to here were induced by local exigencies. Although a great variety of coins was in circulation in Ceylon under the Dutch, the Company's public accounts were kept in *guilders*, *stuivers*, and *penningen*.

thieves, beggars, and slaves being found at night in the streets without a light, which I amended at our meeting of the 9th of this month, where Your Excellency was present; so that I need not expand on that subject. Of the other three which I have been obliged to issue here, one refers to the clandestine adherence of persons to the Roman Catholic religion and the baptism of children by Roman Catholic priests, monks, &c., of whom there are yet many in this country. (16)

It was also necessary to issue a placaat against the monopoly in grain, of which there had been rumours for some time, and also against the clandestine trade in spices. A sad example had to be set in Galle, where the chief mate of the ship "Rypdorf," named Jan Daniel Schuls, was put to death on that account; while the chief doctor of the same vessel, Adriaan van Bockel, who was found guilty of the same offence, was flogged and branded, and the *Vryburger* Jan Bello, who had acted as agent in this matter and who fled the same evening that the affair became known, was since summoned by edict, and on his non-appearance condemned to be hanged. In the application of the amended law, according to the changes made, these circumstances obliged me to issue such a severe placaat as Your Excellency will find annexed to the resolutions of 13th June last. The sanction of Their Honours at Batavia must be obtained to all placaats issued, in compliance with the instructions of 2nd October last, in which it is distinctly stated that the power to alter statutes, laws, &c., rests with them; and this order must be strictly observed.

On account of the large deficit discovered at the Treasury at Kilkare in 1731, I have often discussed with different persons the manner in which the Company's servants both there and on the coast of Madura are dealt with. I also frequently expressed my surprise that in a place where there are two Residents stationed in the Company's service, so much money could be found short at the death of one of them; because I did not suspect that the first Resident only had a key and was responsible. I found in the Journal of Governor Versluys of his last voyage to Tutucorin that His Excellency had at his visit there ordered that each of the Residents should in future be provided with a key and be held responsible. After making inquiries with regard to this matter I proposed in the Political Council on 6th March last that this rule should be also introduced in the Southern outstations, Manapar and Anneceal, and that in all these places, every year, in the month of August, an account should be taken of all the Company's effects, and also that the officials at Tutucorin should be authorized to take such an account as often as they thought necessary.

It was decided on the 31st January that the Secretaries of the Courts of Justice and the Administrators of Orphans' Estates, both here as well as in Jaffnapatam and Galle, should twice a year, instead of once, submit an account of their administration and of the money in their charge. This rule was made especially with a view to prevent such falsification and fraud as I discovered soon after my arrival, and of which the two former Secretaries of both these Colleges were found guilty. The former was delivered up to the Court of Justice of this castle on account of the seriousness of the offence, and he committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell. The latter was dismissed from office and prosecuted by the late Fiscal, the Hon. Mr. van der Hoeven, which prosecution is still pending before the same Court, although in my opinion the case ought to have been long ago decided. I need not go any further into the circumstances relating to this matter, because they are to be found stated at length in the resolutions of 30th and 31st January, 5th February, 6th, 19th, 23rd, and 27th March, 16th April, 16th May, and 1st and 13th June last. I may also refer to the letters in which these matters have been discussed.

On the 29th July last year I proposed, and it was adopted in Council, that the Dessave* of the low lands should be instructed to visit all the korales in the district, in order to hear all complaints of the natives, and to give them redress as far as reasonable and with a view to subdue the riots and discontentment which prevail among them. On account of the great amount of work to be done, and as the Kandyan ambassadors were daily expected, this mission had to be put off, although it was a matter of great importance and affecting the preservation of peace within this country. Such a journey would also serve to give the Dessave more experience in the performance of the duties of the office entrusted to him. He must be furnished with definite instructions, as stated in our letter to the Netherlands of 30th November last.

In these instructions directions should be given for the granting of uncultivated lands to all those who apply for them for the purpose of cultivation, and also, in compliance with the resolution of 15th October, to sell all lands and gardens which had been previously granted and are now cultivated, and which according to custom are the property of the Company. These fields and gardens must be known to Your Excellency as you were Dessave of Matura for so many

* The *Dessave* corresponded in many respects to the Government Agent of the Province. His jurisdiction lay outside the castle and town of Colombo and his offices were situated at Hulftsdorp.

years. It is therefore not necessary for me to mention them here. I will only observe that I think it necessary that a proper *thombo** should be compiled of all fields within the Colombo District, and that it should be mentioned therein which belong to the Company, but are yet uncultivated, and which have been granted for cultivation, as also which are held by the inhabitants as *paravenei* or otherwise. Because, although such a *thombo* was found with the Dessave, I discovered that it was very imperfect, and that not only had many fields and lands been granted for cultivation which had not been entered therein, but that some had also been put down under wrong names, so that continual disputes arise among the natives about the ownership. Others again cultivate lands without paying any dues, which is a loss to the Company. I have considered this matter, and am of opinion that it would be best to have a new *thombo* compiled and to have the lands measured by a sworn Surveyor in the presence of Special Commissioners ; but as I was told that this would take too long, and could not be completed before my departure, I proposed at the meeting of 29th April last (which proposal was adopted) that a Special Mandate Ola should be published throughout the country with orders to all Mudaliyars, Koralas, Vidanes, and other native chiefs to submit a correct statement of the lands, both cultivated and uncultivated, belonging to the Company which are found in their respective villages and korales, and of the names of those by whom they are held at present, and also proof of the present occupants' title. All deeds must be handed in and new ones issued. Those who do not hold any will receive them if it is proved that the occupants themselves had really cultivated the fields and had not obtained them from some one else.† The chiefs were ordered to submit a list of the landowners who have until now paid their dues, but I have not seen such a statement yet. This negligence must be attributed to the laziness of the inhabitants, and I think the matter ought to be revived after my departure. The Dessave must be instructed to remind the chiefs of it on his circuit. This work must be pushed on, in order to ascertain which of the Company's lands are still lying waste, so that they may be given to the inhabitants for cultivation, in compliance with the orders of Their Honours our superiors in the Netherlands. I have already granted to different people under proper deeds and olas about 76 *ammonams* of land, which, when cultivated and sown, will yield a considerable

* Portuguese, a land register. "*Tombo, ou livro em que se tombao as terras.*"—Vieyra.

† This probably refers to lands cultivated without previous authority ("Zonder Konsent").

quantity of *neli** as revenue, which may be increased by a further granting of uncultivated land. (17)

The decision of the Honourable the Government of India at Batavia is expected with regard to the drainage of the district of Divitoere in the Galle Korale, a resolution to that effect having been passed by the Political Council on the 29th December last, when Your Excellency was also present. It is hoped that one or other of the two proposed means of draining these lands and making them fertile would prove a success. (18)

As I am treating here of agriculture, it will be well for me to remind Your Excellency of the wish of Their Honours our superiors in the Netherlands and in Batavia to continue the cultivation of pepper. As you are aware, a Mandate Ola to the inhabitants was published in Their Honours' name throughout the country, ordering the continuation of pepper cultivation, with the promise that the Company will, with a view to interest the inhabitants in the matter, pay higher rates for the article than heretofore. In their letter of 2nd October last Their Honours authorized us to pay three or four rixdollars more per bale of 500 lb. than had been paid in Calpentyn until 1731. It must be remembered that the Singalese pepper is sold in the bazaar or market at six *light stuivers* the *miediet*,† which comes to about 38⅔ rixdollars for such a bale, and that objections will be raised to the continuation of the cultivation of this article in the interest of the Company, while it may be expected that the more it is cultivated the more the price will fall, so that I think it would be best if all natives to whom fields or gardens are granted by the Company be ordered to plant a few pepper plants. I have already commenced this practice in compliance with the orders referred to, which will be sure to prove a success if the native chiefs are kept to their duty and are required to submit a monthly report, stating how many plants have been planted, &c., as is done at present with regard to coffee. It must be remembered that pepper can only be planted against fruit-bearing trees, and that the natives will at first require a great deal of urging, their laziness to undertake anything new being well known, especially when they see in it no direct advantage to themselves. It is desirable that the inhabitants should be made to take an interest in this subject, because the Singalese or Ceylon pepper has a much better flavour than that obtained at Mallabaar, and may be expected to become a source of profit to the Company. Your

* Paddy in husk.

† This is the Portuguese word *medida*, measure. A *meediet* in Ceylon was equal to seven quarters (*muts jens*).—Valentyn.

Excellency will hear more about this when the quantity of 9,792 lb. of pepper which was sent as a sample to the Netherlands by the last homeward bound vessel is received there. Meantime the work must be started here with the aid of some pepper planters from Mallabaar, so that the lazy Singalese may follow their example. (19)

The Ceylon Cardamom does not appear to me to be of as much importance as the pepper, because according to what the natives say it only grows in certain hollow places on the banks of rivers which are sometimes filled with water, and even then not everywhere, but only in sandy places. It may be assumed, therefore, that the cardamom plant found in the lowlands which form the Company's territory would not be very large, and that it will grow much better in the highlands where more rivers and streamlets are found. This is proved by the yearly collection of cardamom by the King's subjects before the gravets were closed, during which time usually 6,000 or 7,000 lb. were collected and sometimes even more, while during the last two years no more than 1,600 and 1,400 lb. could be sent to the Netherlands, although Their Honours our superiors had ordered 10,000 instead of 8,000 lb. to be sent. This, I think, could be easily supplied if the gravets were opened. The native chiefs must be continually urged to the delivery of the required quantity of cardamom, both in the *Dessavony** of Galle and of Matara. In our last letters to the Netherlands it was said that the Dessave would make careful investigation with regard to the Mallabaar cardamom planted in the said districts in the year 1731, in compliance with the orders of His Excellency the late Governor Versluys, which, according to the statement of the principal natives, did not thrive anywhere. I considered it necessary to order a further quantity of 25 lb. from the same place, either in the husk or without it, whichever our friends at Cochin think most suitable, so as to make another experiment with its cultivation. As soon as this aromatic seed is arrived the work must be commenced. (20)

Attention must be paid also to the cultivation of Indigo, which at present is not in a prosperous condition, and to which the natives seem to have the most objection. The Indian Government† in their esteemed letter of 2nd October last gave some instructions on this subject, which must be followed pending further orders from Their Honours our superiors in the Netherlands. I will not enter into details on this subject, nor state from where the leaves for the

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* The jurisdiction of a *dessave*. There were thus the *dessavonies* of Colombo, Jaffna, Matara, &c.

† *I.e.*, the Batavian Government.

boiling of this dye are obtained, how it is prepared, or what will be necessary for the continuation of the work ; because I am not sufficiently acquainted with these matters, while Your Excellency has probably obtained as much or even more information about them during the time you were Dessave of Matara and Commandeur of Colombo. (21)

With regard to Coffee Cultivation, Your Excellency must remember that on my proposal a resolution was passed in Colombo on the 19th January last to abolish the office of Overseer of the same. This was done not because I had reason to suspect extortion on his part, but because the expenditure, according to the custom of the country, has to be borne by the poor inhabitants, who have to provide such an officer coming from elsewhere with all that is required, and who must also furnish his retinue with the customary *Adokos* and *Peindos** (as they call them), while also the latter trouble the people in various ways without the knowledge of the Overseer. In compliance with the written request of the native chiefs, who proposed to deliver to the Company more, and even twice as much, coffee yearly than formerly (which document has been inserted with the resolutions of last February), this officer has been discharged, on the understanding that he or another officer would be appointed over them again if they failed to keep their promise. This threat was published everywhere by Special Mandate Ola, and it must be carried out if necessary. As was expected, the inhabitants of Galle and Matara were negligent with regard to the delivery, which is proved by the fact that the inhabitants of Colombo alone delivered on the last occasion 20,637 lb., being 9,810¼ lb. more than the year before, because their chiefs were continually reminded by me and the Dessave to see to the cultivation. The nature of the Singalese is such that they require continual urging, especially those in the districts referred to, who exceed all others in laziness and slothfulness, not only in this but in all other deliveries they have to make to the Company. They delivered on this occasion only 4,098¾ lb. of coffee, which is 2,918¼ lb. less than formerly, in spite of their promise like the others to do their utmost to promote this cultivation. The people in Galle kept their promise a little better than those in Matara, because they delivered 2,656 lb., or 1,902 lb. more than the year before. This matter is recommended to Your Excellency's serious attention, as I think the prospects are good, and it would be well for you to act in accordance

* "*Addukkus* and *pehindums*." The former were *dressed* and the latter *raw* provisions supplied to an officer travelling on duty.—See "Glossary of Native, Foreign, and Anglicized Words."

with the orders given to the late Governor Versluys, viz., to personally visit Matara during the time of delivery. Much default and extortion on the part of the native chiefs towards the poor subjects, such as I mentioned in reference to the question of abolishing the office of Overseer by resolution of 17th February last year, may be prevented in this way. An account of the visit of Governor Versluys, at which you were also present, may be found in the Journal kept thereof, which was submitted to and approved by Their Honours at Batavia, as also in the often mentioned letter to the Netherlands, so that I refer to both these documents. (22)

I now proceed to treat of the Cinnamon, which is the chief source of revenue of the Company in this Island. I will not enter into details with reference to the time of gathering, the treatment of it after the ingathering or its mode of shipment, as Your Excellency is well acquainted with these matters. I will, however, deal with some points relating to the preservation of the fragrancy of this bark, because two instances have occurred of the whole quantity being spoilt on arrival at Batavia. The first was in 1732 on board the vessel "Meermond," when a quantity of 798 lb. was found damaged on unloading, which was said to be due to the quality of the mats with which the hold was lined. The amount was refunded by the widow of the Captain* (who since died) and by the Master Attendant of the Shipping, Abraham de Vlaming. The second occurred in 1733 on board the vessel "'t Vliegendt Hart," when a quantity of 1,600 lb. was found spoilt. Your Excellency also took part in the inquiry as to whether the present Master Attendant of the Shipping, Carel Swensen, was to be held responsible and should be required to refund the amount, the reasons for which were stated at length in the resolutions of 13th December last. The chief reason was that the damage must be supposed to be due to dampness of the hides in which the 151 bales from Galle had been packed, and which were soaked through by the salt water coming in. But whether this officer has not been charged unjustly I cannot say, although I have practically agreed in the decision by allowing my considerations to be taken down. The final decision of Their Honours must therefore be awaited, and I hope for his sake that they will have some consideration and exempt him from the payment. These proceedings and all documents with regard to the matter, as also a letter from the Company, have been forwarded, as there is no certainty as to where the damaged bales had been packed; so that the officer in question cannot positively be either accused or excused, while he will, if held liable, be

* Captain of the Mahabadde.

both impoverished and ruined; as it is no small matter for an ordinary inhabitant of Ceylon to pay an amount of 1,600 rixdollars, yet it must be possible to find out how the damage was occasioned. As said in the letter of Their Honours of 9th August last, and as I was also told by some intelligent persons, such occurrences may be prevented in future by covering the bottom of the hold of vessels which have to carry cinnamon to Batavia with a quantity of about 20,000 lb. of Mallabaar pepper, as the ballast put on such vessels is usually more or less damp, and this moisture is communicated to the cinnamon. This moisture would not affect the pepper, which would also absorb any moisture in the hides. This advice must be good, because no complaints have been received as far as I know about cinnamon sent to the Netherlands, apparently because the holds of vessels to Holland are loaded with pepper and contain no sand as ballast. I was told that some years ago in the Bay of Galle it happened that a punt which was used for the loading of vessels and was laden with cinnamon was wrecked, so that all the bales fell into the water. They were picked up, opened, the cinnamon dried, packed in new hides, and transported to the Netherlands, and no complaint was ever heard about it. Whether this story is true I do not know, but if it could be proved it would be well to preserve this spice in the manner proposed, especially when the bark is old and dry. Their Honours apparently understood all this long ago, as may be seen from their letter from Batavia of 13th August, 1695. Their last instructions on this subject must however be carried out. (23)

When writing about the cultivation of Coffee, I spoke of the negligence of the native chiefs in Matara with regard to the delivery of the required coffee. The same may be said of the delivery of cocoanut oil, so that our officials in Galle have not been able to ship half the required quantity in the last returning vessels. It will therefore be necessary to remind the men of their duty and to see that they pay up their dues every year, or at least not later than one or one and a half months beyond the time. Governor Versluys gave orders that in case these people did not pay up their arrears that same year according to their promise, the quantity due was to be purchased at their expense. This might be done to one of the chiefs whose arrears are largest as an example to others. (24)

Inquiry must also be made as to how far these chiefs have delivered the required quantity of *nely*, and how much they are in arrear. In this matter also they must be strongly urged, otherwise the arrears will become so large that there would be no possibility of collecting them. The Dessave of

Matura and the Overseer* must be instructed to see to this, both in Galle and in Matura. The quantity of *nely* received by the Company last year has been specified in the often cited letter to the Netherlands, where Your Excellency will also find a statement of the quantity of rice kept in store in the warehouses here. (25) Last December there were 779 lasts, which I mention here, because it is necessary that a stock sufficient for two years should be always kept in store, so that the orders to Batavia and Cormandel may be regulated accordingly, and no inconvenience caused, as happened in 1730, when rice had to be obtained from Mallabaar. As Your Excellency has been informed in the letter from the Honourable the Indian Government of 2nd October last, 50 lasts of rice had to be sent to that Commandement, which has been done already by the vessel "Papenburg," so that at present about 709 lasts will be in store here. The 200 lasts for which we have applied to Batavia will arrive most likely next July, but this will not be a sufficient stock for two years, the average consumption being about 600 or 700 lasts a year. I have therefore instructed the Chief Administrator to apply to Batavia for another 400 lasts, so that then this place will be sufficiently provided, and if necessary Your Excellency will be in a position to help the stations Trincomalee and Batticaloa. It would be best, however, if the gravets remain closed somewhat longer on account of the obstinacy of the native chiefs, which prevents the official there from buying any rice, that the officials in Jaffnapatam should be instructed to obtain a sufficient quantity for a whole year, both for Jaffnapatam and for the garrisons in Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Meantime a quantity of 60 or 70 lasts must be sent to them, so that they may not be put to any inconvenience. The garrison must always have preference over private persons; and to the latter no rice or *nely* must be issued except in the utmost necessity, and only when it is not to be obtained anywhere outside the Company's warehouses. It is not proper that the Company should be put to the expense of the equipment of ships and moreover suffer any loss from waste for the sake of private persons, especially if the rice is sold at cost price as used to be done here. This has been stopped on my recommendation in the Political Council. (26) Particulars with regard to the parish poor and the patients in the leper hospital will be found in the resolutions of 7th September last year, to which I refer now.

In compliance with the instructions of the Honourable the Indian Government the Bargemen and Merchants from the

* Superintendent of the Galle Korale ("Opziender").

coast of Cormandel must be treated generously, so as to induce them to come here every year. The Company and the inhabitants would by that means be provided with a large quantity of rice ; while other advantages may be also expected if a large number of them arrive, as was seen in the revenues of last year, when an amount of 22,525·9·8 guilders was received for duty and taxes, which is easily earned and may be considerably increased if there is a sufficient quantity of arekanut, which these people usually take back to their country ; so that the Company may sell a large quantity of these nuts at a considerable profit. Last year not much was sold, because there was only a small stock of it on account of the gravets being closed. I will not dilate on this subject because it has been discussed at length in the often cited letter to the Netherlands. (27)

An order was sent round to all our subjects on the 21st of last July all through the country to deliver all their Arekanut to the Company, with a view not only to increase the delivery and thus extend the trade, but also in order to show the King's people that the Company does not depend on them and on the opening of the gravets, although it must be admitted that this has been very prejudicial to the Company ; so that I hope that we may see them soon opened during Your Excellency's Government, and also that you may be able to dispose of the large quantity of spoilt arekanut which was received in 1731 in Calpetty from the King's people, and which is still lying there because we did not know what to do with it. (28)

The trade in Cotton Goods on the coast of Madura is in a fairly flourishing condition, as is proved by the fact that 1,510 bales of various descriptions of cotton were sent this year to the Fatherland ; while the year before only 945 bales were sent ; so that there is a prospect that this year the whole of the demand for these goods may be met, especially if the grain and the cotton become somewhat cheaper than they have been hitherto. As is known to Your Honour, the officials at Madura have been reproached for their hastiness in closing the contract at the higher rate which was allowed under great necessity in 1732 for *Guinas* * and *Salempoeris* † by Governor Versluys. In compliance with the orders from the Indian Government, contained in their letter of 2nd October last year from Batavia, they have been instructed to bring the contract back to the former rate. I regret to say that this could not be done, and that our officials at Tutucorin had to

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* *Guinea-cloths, Guinea stuffs.* Apparently these were piece goods bought in India to be used in the West African trade.—*Hobson-Jobson.*

† *Salempoory.* A kind of chintz.—*Ibid.*

close the contract at only $3\frac{10}{11}$ per cent. less than the year before. Your Excellency must now see that the cloths delivered are satisfactory as regards quality, length, and breadth, and that the whole of the quantity in demand is supplied by the combined merchants, each one delivering his share. Should they fail to do so, they must be punished according to the instructions contained in the letter from Batavia bearing date 3rd August, 1732, which has been supplemented by the letter of 2nd October last year, which will be a powerful means to keep them to their duty. (29)

As the poverty of many of the merchants is well known, I fear that in case of a bad or poor rice crop on the coast of Coromandel this district will also be affected, because the two districts form almost one territory. Experience has taught us that when such a calamity befalls the one district, the other is not exempted. As rightly observed by Their Honours in their letter of 3rd August, 1732, it is at such times that the Company requires the assistance of its merchants; while on other occasions and in prosperous times they (the merchants) make their profit by the Company. Your Excellency must therefore insist on the prices being reduced to the former rate, because if the increase is paid any longer it will be very difficult to lower it later on, as all that is introduced to the advantage of the natives very soon becomes law with them. If the reduction cannot be secured at once, it must be done gradually year by year, in compliance with the orders of Their Honours, which must be always studiously obeyed.

Orders have been also received that next month (February) an express vessel must be sent to the Maldive Islands with merchandise and cash for the purchase and exchange of *cauris*. Their Honours wish these voyages to be renewed, in spite of the objections raised against them, until the inhabitants of these islands will themselves import these cauris in sufficient quantities. Some jackers* are to be sent there by the yacht "Adriana" to be employed as ordered by The Honourable the Indian Government in their letter of 2nd October last, and as we promised in the so often cited letter to the Netherlands. A quantity of 105,811 lb. was sent to the Fatherland by the last vessel, which had been brought here by the inhabitants of the Maldive Islands themselves. Your Excellency must see that a capable clerk is appointed to the vessels going to the Maldives for the verification of

* These "jackers" are described in the letter referred to (2nd October, 1733) as "a troop of 24 Christian natives" who were to be employed as mariners under a European steersman with a requisite staff of subordinate officers and two ordinary seamen.

contracts, &c., and also an experienced Moorish interpreter* to assist the Captain and the clerk. These officers must be furnished with detailed instructions as to how to conduct themselves, both with regard to the trade and towards the King and his principal chiefs, for each of whom usually a small present is sent on such occasions according to their rank. It must be done this time also, as we have instructed our officials at Galle by our letter of 27th December, who are to promise this to the *Hachoda* (the Maldivian Ambassador ?) who brought the last present of the King for His Excellency the Governor, but who could not return yet on account of the prevalence of chickenpox. At his own request he has been supplied with two pairs of grappling irons on payment of their value. These are to be sent by the *shaloup*† or other vessel which Your Excellency will send there, as no room could be found for them. It is really against the Company's rules for such implements to be supplied to foreigners, and the officials at Galle must be told that we would rather that they had refused the request under pretext of wanting the article for our own use ; but yet I do not think that this prohibition is intended for the inhabitants of those islands, who have to be indulged a little more than others to induce them to come here more often.

The Pearl Banks found near the coasts of Ceylon (usually called the Aripo), Madura and the Tutucorin banks are at present not very promising, so that it will not be possible for some time to carry out a dive for the Company. They have been inspected by the Dessave of Jaffnapatam, Hendrik Panneel, and two European Commissioners aided by some of the native chiefs, and their report of the 22nd December last says that for a considerable time no diving could take place. The banks must however be yearly inspected, and the native chiefs must always, before such inspection, be informed of the rules laid down in the letter from Batavia of 2nd October last, with a view to prevent them from raising difficulties afterwards in case of unfavourable reports. This was done by the Dessave Panneel to the Head Patangatyn after the inspection had been held. The inspection had been ordered long before, and intimation of his arrival at Aripo was expected for a long time, while the extract referring to the subject had been sent on the 12th December, but was received by him only the day after his return from Manaar. Extracts were also sent to the *Opperhoofd* and the Council at Tutucorin in our letter of 17th December

* What is meant probably is a Moorish trader able to speak the Maldivian language.

† Sloop.

before the banks there were to be inspected, and also to the Commissioners and all the native chiefs, and to the latter also a translation in Tamil, which it had been impossible to furnish at our meeting as desired by the Honourable the Indian Government. No doubt Their Honours will approve of this, and give further directions as to how these people are to be informed in future. (30)

All particulars with regard to the trade in Elephants have been stated at length in our letters to our superiors in the Netherlands; so that Your Excellency is fully aware of the success of our last sale and how much higher prices were realized than last year; so that I will only express here my earnest wish that this trade may become more and more profitable. The Wannias delivered since August last five animals, and the inhabitants of Mantotte and Manaar nine, while forty-five were selected for sale out of those captured at *Girrewas*.* I have no doubt, therefore, that Your Excellency will succeed in collecting a fair number for the next public sale at Jaffnapatam, especially if the Wannias could be forced to make up their arrears, which are still very large, although they have delivered far more of late than they used to do. This is due to the rule made by His Excellency the late Governor Versluys, that one of the chiefs must always reside in the castle of Jaffnapatam as a hostage, which rule they would like to be rescinded, but which must not be consented to, because it was fully approved by the Honourable the Government of India. If this rule were abolished, they would soon disregard the orders of the Commandeur and refuse to appear at his summons, while also the required number of elephants would not be delivered to the Company. The keeping of such a hostage prevents also much crime and ill-behaviour on the part of the Wannias, as he is held responsible. Each hostage is kept for one month and then relieved by one of his people, the former not being allowed to depart until the arrival of his successor, and thus no opportunity being given for escape. They are lodged in one of the gardens of the Company, and have a native guard consisting of an Arachchi and a few Lascoreens, which serves more as a watch over them than as a guard of honour, although it passes under the latter title. Their Honours also stated in their letter of 2nd October that they would prefer if the female elephants were rejected, so that not too many animals might be left after the sale; but this being a conditional order, it must be observed where circumstances permit. In the same letter it was said that, should any Moorish purchasers come to

* Giruwa Pattuwa.

Galle, some of the elephants may be sold to them if there was a sufficient number of them on hand, provided it does not interfere with the sale at Jaffnapatam. The officials at Jaffnapatam must yearly make a correct list of all elephants sent from here and those kept in the stalls at Jaffnapatam and Manaar as soon as they receive the list of those sent from here, which list must be sent to the officials at Coromandel. (31)

The officials at Coromandel must also see that the cultivation of *Ruinas roots** is continued, with which an experiment was made last year. A quantity of half a pound of that seed was received here from Persia in the "Hop-vogel," which seed was sent to Coromandel, and Your Excellency must from time to time inquire how much of it is growing, and also make a special note of the matter on the receipt of the Annual Compendium. (32)

Attention must also be paid to the cultivation of dye-roots, and a detailed account of the work given in the advices to Batavia and the Netherlands, both with regard to Coromandel and Jaffnapatam and to Tutucorin. (33)

The authorities in the Netherlands have been informed that the last Kirman goat which survived out of the forty-seven sent from Persia has also died. It was sent to Jaffnapatam to see whether it would thrive better there, but according to a letter from Jaffnapatam dated 30th December it succumbed on the way. We have applied for another fifty Kirman goats, in compliance with the instructions contained in the letter of 23rd May from the Honourable the Indian Government. When these arrive, new experiments must be made. (34)

The result of the Chank Fishery, which the officials at Tutucorin were authorized to carry out in the letter of 19th October last, must be awaited. At present I can say no more than that the officer in charge, Mr. Overbeek, said when I asked him, that there is a good prospect of a fair quantity of these sea-shells being collected; and I expect this is so, because we would have been notified if it were otherwise in order to prevent a vessel being sent on a futile errand to fetch these shells. The chanks confiscated in June last year from the Moorish smugglers must be sorted, and the saleable kinds with those belonging to the Company must be sent to Bengalle to be sold there according to instructions. The remainder must be thrown into the sea or destroyed to prevent others committing fraud with them, as these divers intended to do. Great vigilance should be exercised against such practices, because these people might go yet further and attack the pearl banks. (35)

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* A species of dye-root.

The silk-worms in cocoons which were brought here by the last vessel I have sent to the Governor's residence at Pas Naklegam.* Since that time they have increased so rapidly that the overseers fear that there will be an insufficiency of food. I have therefore instructed the Dessave to look for a suitable piece of land for the planting of slips from the mulberry tree, and for another spot where a building could be erected not only for the breeding of the silk-worms, but also for the unwinding of the silk. This is a matter well-known to Your Excellency, as you were present at the meeting of Council of 29th December last, and which may be found entered in detail in the resolutions of that meeting. The European youths who arrived here with the silk-worms are now employed in supervising the work of some Chinese who pretend to understand the breeding of silk-worms. They have also been spinning some silk from the cocoons out of which the worms have crept, but of what quality this silk is I cannot say, as I have no knowledge of these matters, while until now no person could be found who understands this work. We will therefore be obliged to ask the Honourable Government of Batavia to judge. If the result be satisfactory Their Honours will no doubt send here some capable persons for the reeling of silk, so that for the present all attention must be paid to the breeding of worms. Should they increase greatly, a number of them must be sent to Jaffnapatam and Matara to see how they will thrive there. I do not think there will be any objection to the making of this experiment, although we wrote to the Fatherland that we would keep them here, not knowing at the time that they would multiply so rapidly, which makes this measure a necessary precaution. I think now that the former insects died through the ignorance of those who had the care of them. The silk now reeled I will take with me to Batavia as a sample, so that Your Excellency may soon receive new instructions with regard to this matter. Meantime this enterprise is recommended to your attention, as considerable profit may be expected from it for the Company. The number of cocoons is at present 1,250, besides a large number of worms and butterflies. They are kept since of late in the building erected by Governor Petrus Vuyst just outside the *Rotterdamsche Poort*,† where I had to

* This was the Governor's country seat at Grandpass, to which was attached a large garden. This neighbourhood appears to have taken the fancy of the Dutch Governors from early times. Rycklof van Goens was so enamoured of the spot that he laid out a large tract of ground along the river, which for a long time bore the name of "Van Goens' Dorp."

† This was a small sally port leading out towards Slave Island. The building referred to stood evidently on the site of the present Non-Commissioned Officers' quarters.

send them from Pas Naklegam, because the Kandyan ambassadors requested to be allowed to stay there instead of at their usual residence at *Wolvendaal* on account of the chickenpox. These ambassadors having now departed, as well as our own people, to Kandy, the worms might be brought back, although I think that they could be kept in no better place than the so-called " Coffee Garden,"* because the Overseer of the coffee cultivation could at the same time supervise the breeding of the silk-worms. A building having to be erected for the keeping of the worms and the reeling of the silk, I think the best place for that purpose would also be this garden, because a river runs alongside it. Your Excellency might appoint as Overseer, temporarily, the Ensign Aart van Wateringen, who was suspended for six months. He was in charge of that coffee garden for some time and has always been a gardener, so that I think that such work will suit him much better than that of a military officer. I leave this matter, however, entirely to you. (36)

Although I have to be far more prolix in discussing the various sources of income of the Company than I first intended, I must not fail to mention here that a letter was received from the officials at Trincomalee, dated 13th September, stating that the *Opperhoofd*† Verdonk and the military lieutenant Kumel discovered a layer of crystal just outside that fortress, which they thought might be of value to the Company. On my orders a piece was broken and some stones cut from it by people who were able to do so. I found them, however, to be of no use to the Company, as they were of inferior quality and by no means clear. Your Excellency may see this for yourself from the remaining piece which is in the custody of the Secretary of the Political Council. I think it will be best to send this piece with the next advices to the Honourable the Government of India, together with an extract of the letter from the authorities there in reply to the inquiry what should be the quantity to be obtained and what expenditure would be incurred to have the stone dug out and transported, as I wished to see whether it would not be useful as ballast for the ships. They say that the cost for implements and cooly wages would come about 100 rixdollars, and that each workman was to receive a quartern of arrack daily when they were employed in digging out the crystal during low water after blasting the rocks. A sufficient quantity of ballast for

* This "coffee garden," it is apparent, was also attached to the Governor's country seat.

† This was the title by which the chief official of a minor station was known. Mannar, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, &c., had each its *Opperhoofd*.

two or three ships, it is said, might thus be obtained. They asked for further instructions, but did not receive these yet, because we cannot know whether the Company would be willing to spend 100 rixdollars for ballast even for three ships. I therefore consider it best that this matter should be submitted to Their Honours before giving any instructions with regard to it. (37)

Your Honour must also not fail to submit to Their Excellencies your views with regard to the breeding of horses, as this is required by their letter of 2nd October. We have already done this in our last letter to the Netherlands, and when the reply is received thereto extracts of the reply and of your own report must be sent to Batavia. It will also be necessary for Your Honour to review the latter and to add an extract from the letter of 14th December last received from the officials at Jaffnapatam, so that definite instructions may be obtained. Meantime the instructions of 27th December, 1730, must be complied with, viz., that yearly ten stallions and mares be sent to serve as presents for the native princes. (38)

A few words must also be added on the subject of the Mallabaar pepper, not because there is anything particular to state, but because, according to the report of the *Opperhoofd* at Madura (the *Koopman* Daniel Overbeek), none of that spice is in store at Kilkare or elsewhere. The sloop "Zeelands Welvaren" must, therefore, be sent to Galle as soon as possible to bring from there a full load out of the 800,000 lb. kept there, as was resolved on the 13th of this month. This trade will no doubt become more prosperous as a result of the Peace of 1731, especially as the difficulty with His Excellency the *Theuver** regarding the reserved tolls has been removed; and there will be less trouble about the passage of the Company's vessels with merchandise through the Paumben Straits. Meanwhile Your Excellency must not forget to supply the Commandement of Jaffnapatam with about 30,000 lb. of the said pepper, for which they have lately applied. (39)

The Land rents and Poll tax in the Commandement of Jaffnapatam have not been paid during the last few years in consequence of the flood in the year 1726, which was followed by famine and great mortality among the inhabitants. The officials at Jaffnapatam stated in their letter of 9th October last that, with no little trouble and much urging, and even by the collectors putting some people in chains, the taxes were paid up to the year 1729–1730; so that they are yet in arrears for the years 1730 to 1733. In the resolutions of 17th September of the Jaffna Council, sent to us for

* Prince of Madura.

approbation, they stated that the inhabitants have not yet recovered from the effects of the disasters which had befallen them, and they hoped that the people would be absolved from the payment to a certain extent. This was not approved, and the officials were instructed by His Excellency Governor Versluys and his Council not to hold out hopes of such remission to the natives, but to commence the collection of taxes as soon as they see that the people are able to pay them. Your Excellency must therefore inquire from time to time after the condition of the Commandement and its inhabitants, in order to guard the interests of the Company. (40) I think satisfactory arrangements could be made without Your Excellency taking the trouble to go there yourself, although most of the former Governors did so. This applies to all other places as well. I do not see the necessity for it, as proper regulations have been made, and there are capable Commandeurs and *Opperhoofden* in the outstations. When these officers newly arrive they may be informed of the state of affairs by the Council, while the Governor could issue his instructions from the Castle of Colombo, which must be carried out by the Commandeurs and *Opperhoofden*. This would greatly add to the dignity and authority of these officers, both which are very necessary if they are to work successfully; while their authority is diminished by the occasional visits of the Governor—so much so, that the ordinary native has no regard for these officials. Your Excellency will clearly see the weight of my argument if I tell you that even during the short period of my residence here I found that the Sinhalese and Mallabaars, and especially the latter, in their great desire for sordid gain for themselves, did not hesitate to resort to all kinds of evil practices. They would try to cause even their own fathers, brothers, or other relatives to be dismissed from their office in order to secure a post for themselves. And they find their best opportunity on the visits of the Governor; because they then try to deceive him, either directly or with the help of corrupt officers who tell all manner of tales to the ruin of the person concerned, thus influencing the Governor and inducing him to agree to the proposed changes, on the ground that they are necessary, and he then appoints new officers without the knowledge of the Commandeur or Chief. Another disadvantage from these visits is the great expenditure to which the Company is consequently put, not only on account of the travelling expenses of the Governor and his retinue, but also because, according to the custom of the country, every one has to be treated to *Phindos*, *Adoekoes*, intoxicating drinks, &c., which matters are better known to Your Excellency than to myself. I therefore

consider these journeys worse than useless; as they are prejudicial to the interests of the Company and harmful to the natives; while they, moreover, take away the dignity and authority of the subaltern rulers where these are required if they are to govern satisfactorily. Another matter which causes much mischief, and which I am assured is well known to Your Excellency, is that successive Governors, even when in Colombo, interfered with the appointment of native officers in the outstations; so that the natives, if they could only afford the trip, go to Colombo, even without the permission of the Commandeur, and return with the appointment to some new office, in which they have to be recognized, if they procure the necessary documents. Such occurrences must necessarily weaken the influence of the subaltern rulers among the natives, while I think that they should deal directly with the natives and propose them for appointments, and Your Excellency should confirm them in these offices when there are no objections. This will surely serve the general welfare much better, and give the natives greater respect for those who are in authority, a condition of things at present sadly wanting. An example thereof was seen the other day, in the case of Gaisenaik,* who sought to disturb the peace by accusing the late Dessave Verschragen of having appropriated a quantity of the Company's *nely*, which had been twice accounted for in the transfer, a fact which he knew but did not correct. The matter was settled only after my arrival. I suppressed this evil in the beginning, and I do not think this person will try the same trick again, on account of the resolution passed on 12th October last with regard to this matter, to which Your Excellency also gave your vote. There is no need for me to enter into details with regard to this subject, because you are fully aware of all particulars, and I will only advise you to treat similar cases in the same way, as this will be the only means of ruling peacefully, while it will lead the subordinate officers to a more conscientious performance of their duties and protect our own people against the ill-will of the natives. (41)

You must be aware with what favour the Honourable the Government of India, by their letter of 2nd October, acceded to my proposal that, as so much confusion arises by the loss of letters and other documents in the outstations, there should be yearly sent up, together with the complete advices, a journal of that year, in order to simplify the work at the Secretariat and to prevent the work getting into arrears.

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* The "Gaisenaik" or "Gajenaike" was a native headman in charge of the elephant hunt in the Matara District.

Your Excellency should see that this rule is strictly followed, with a view, not only to avoid giving Their Honours cause for displeasure, but also to prevent a double amount of work having to be done. (42) You must also see that, in obedience to instructions, all orders which have been successively sent here and are contained in the letters are collected and digested according to the specimen sent here and now kept at the Secretariat.* This work must be commenced and completed as soon as possible, for which service the Fiscal Frans Willem Falck,† the Chief Inspector Arnout de Lopes, and the *Onderkoopman*‡ Jurgen van der Spar, who acts as secretary, have been specially commissioned by resolution of the 4th of this month. (43)

In the resolutions of 31st December, 1732, Your Excellency will find how some natives in the stations Mabol, Pasbetal, and Naeklegam, subjects of the Company, had the audacity to put up structures of sticks and branches as a token of their allegiance to the king, and how these were pulled out of the ground and thrown into the water, by which I succeeded in preventing the natives in the China Korle from following their example. I had, however, much difficulty in subduing these rebels; which was only possible by granting them pardon and overlooking all their stubbornness and arrogance. It would take too much time to enter into detail with regard to this matter, while I could only repeat what is to be found in the successive resolutions; so that I would refer Your Excellency to them, especially to those of 31st December, 1732, and 16th April, 1st June, 25th August, and 7th and 23rd September of the following year. I will only state here that I ordered the Dessave, on the 25th August, to send some armed Lascoreens with their Chiefs to this Korle, with instructions to return violence for violence if the rebels should molest the peaceable subjects, and that this should be done even at the cost of some lives. With a few exceptions they have all returned to their former allegiance, not only submitting to the Company, but even sending an ola conveying gratitude to the Mudaliyar and to the Dessave, signed by 132 persons, in which they promise loyalty to the Company. This shows that the natives must be sometimes dealt with kindly, and we see in this case again that more flies are caught with a drop of honey than with a whole cask of vinegar.§ Since that time they have

* Several of these compilations are extant.

† The father of Governor Iman Willem Falck (1765–1785). He died as Dessave of Matara in 1736 and was buried within the church there.

‡ *Lit.* "under-merchant." It is merely used to denote a grade in the Company's Civil Service.

§ "*Met een drop honing kan men meer vliegen vangen als met een gantsche legger azyn.*"

faithfully performed their services and live quietly and peaceably in their *Aldea*.* I trust, therefore, that there need be no fear of further disturbances if they and the other inhabitants are protected in their old prerogatives and privileges, because they consider such institutions as law. (44)

I wish I had been able to remove the difficulty with the Chalias and the inhabitants of Negombo in the same way. I have not indeed heard of any new riots there, but I received instructions from Batavia in a letter of 23rd May last year relating to this matter, which I have not been able to carry out, because the Chalias have been constantly away in the woods for the peeling of cinnamon both for the great and the small harvest. The latter is, in fact, still going on; so that I am obliged to leave this matter to Your Excellency. I seriously recommend to you the trial of a suitable expedient for settling the disagreement between the Chalias and the other castes, as to what service each is to perform, &c., without reviving the old difficulties. For this purpose I got the Lieutenant Dirk Pieter Beekman and the Chief of the Chalias to write down the means they considered most feasible for reconciling the parties. Their statements are to be found in the resolutions of 7th October last, while the manuscript of Lieutenant Beekman was handed to the Dessave Mr. de Jonge, who, in consequence of the resolutions passed, submitted a representation on behalf of the Chalias, accompanied by twenty different olas, containing various statements by the oldest inhabitants of this dessavony. This matter must be attended to as soon as the Chalias return from the forests; so that you may be able to include the report thereon in the complete advices which are to be sent to the Indian Government at Batavia in February or the middle of March at the latest. The advices must be sent every year at that time in order that Their Excellencies may not be kept waiting for them as happened in former years, much to their displeasure. (45)

When these disagreements are settled, attention must also be paid to the two reports of the 15th August last by the Commissioners from Galle, Cornelis Schage and Jan Elsen, with regard to certain disputes between different Chalias and other inhabitants concerning some gardens and fields. As these lands belong to Galle, I have sent the documents to the officials there, together with the reports of the said Commissioners, and also another report by the same Commissioners with regard to claims on the inheritance of the late Sworn Interpreter at the Secretariat, Hendrik Blok, who died in Galle. These have been handed to Your Excellency for perusal. Having been Commandeur of Galle,

* *Portuguese*, village.

you have no doubt obtained a knowledge of the situation of these lands, and will find no difficulty in deciding these matters. The necessary papers will be found among the Galle documents under numbers 354 and 409, where they have been bound with the annexures. In No. 374 Your Excellency will also find some extracts from the resolutions of the meeting of the *Scholarchen*,* bearing date 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th February and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th March of last year. I have ordered the minutes of these meetings to be handed to the Dessave, who acts as President, before they are signed by the Secretary Cau in my name and that of the Council. A resolution to that effect was passed by the Council on my motion in February last year, because I did not consider it proper that the Governor should have authority to approve or alter the decisions of a whole assembly consisting of the best qualified and most eminent persons; but that it would be better if this were done with advice of Council. This would add to the dignity of that college and induce the members to formulate their resolutions and considerations in such a way as would best promote our Reformed Religion, which at present seems to be in a very sad condition; although during my residence here the clergy did not fail to admonish the community both in sermons and individually. Your Excellency must therefore see that there are always good ministers in the churches, and also that the preachers of God's Word are not troubled with petty matters. I have always found this to be best, both during my Government in Ternaten and during my short residence here, and I am sure Your Excellency will also find it most advantageous to the community if Moses and Aaron join hands in friendship; because where religion is neglected all truthfulness and humanity also disappear.

In the resolutions of 22nd June last year Your Excellency will find the reason why I decided that none of the clergy employed by Government should be summoned before court without consent of the Governor. I found soon after my arrival here that some of the officers did not hesitate to summon the ministers before the court in matters which might have been easily settled by reference to or with the authority of the Governor. Notice of these resolutions has been sent to the *Commandements* of Jaffnapatam and Galle, where Your Excellency must also send extracts of our resolution of 4th August, by which, for reasons stated therein, it was resolved that, according to the usage in Batavia and the Eastern Provinces, the Consistory should select for nomination a double number of persons and out of this again

* School Board.

single persons and then submit a list of these names with an extract of the ecclesiastical report for approbation to the Political Council, instead, as was the custom here, of selecting a double number and submitting a list of these to the Governor and then, if he had no objection to any of the persons mentioned there, selecting finally single persons. I think this not only lessens the power of the Consistory but also the authority of the Council, while by the other course the authority of both the Political Government and the ecclesiastical Council are maintained.

It is desirable to make stronger efforts for promoting Christianity among the natives; because, although the clergy who yearly inspect the schools report that the work has been carried on with sufficient zeal, yet progress is but slow. This is partly due to the fact that the natives possess but a very small part of the Holy Scriptures in their own language, the only parts translated being the Catechism, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the prayers for morning, evening, and before and after meals, the Creed, and some of the Psalms. The translation of the Holy Bible, commenced by the Rev. Mr. Konyn, must be continued, and, after revision and approbation in Batavia, it must be published and issued to the schools for better instruction of the blind Heathen. Only the three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke have been translated and properly revised yet, while the two first have been issued to the schools written on ola. I have often spoken on this subject both to the Rev. Mr. Konyn and to the Rev. Mr. Wetselius, who know the language. I understood from what they said that the work might have progressed much further if there had not been so many obstacles in their way. The first-mentioned minister was also troubled with various petty matters which prevented his doing this, so useful, work. As far as I could see, this and the want of proper assistance were the reasons why the work has not further advanced. While perhaps his age will not permit the Rev. Mr. Konyn now to carry on the work with as much energy as he would have wished to, both he and the Rev. Mr. Wetselius (who learnt the language just because he took an interest in it) declared to me to be willing to continue this work if the necessary means and assistance were supplied. They are also willing to see that the portion which has been revised and approved and all that will be ready hereafter are printed and published, expecting great results from this work in the spread of Christianity among the natives. It is a fact that there is no better means of conviction than the hearing and reading of God's Holy Word in one's own language. I have greatly interested myself in this matter, and intend to bring it before the

Honourable the Indian Government. Meanwhile it would be well if Your Excellency would consult with these worthy divines from time to time, and, if possible, have the Gospel of Luke copied and issued to the schools; as this also has been revised and approved and ordered to be introduced here. (46)

I think I have now given Your Excellency a brief sketch of the most important matters concerning this Government, as far as the little experience and knowledge obtained by me during my short residence here permits me to do, thus complying with the instructions of our authorities. I will now pass on to our relations with the Kandyan Court; but before doing so I must remind Your Excellency that the first thing to be done after my departure should be replying to the letters from outstations, and, first and foremost, those from Tuticorin, bearing date 14th October last, in which the officials there asked for instructions upon matters, all which I cannot quote here, but the principal of which was, what they were to do to prevent the English from trading in Travancore. On acconnt of many other engagements I had no time to answer these letters, so that I have to leave them to you, referring you to the letter files to obtain an insight into these matters. The replies to be given to the letters of 4th August and 2nd October last year I have noted down in the margins thereof, so that these will give you no difficulty. I must remind Your Excellency here that the Honourable the Indian Government has strictly ordered in their letter of 3rd August, 1732, that all cases decided during each year for the whole of Ceylon must be sent to Batavia for examination together with the complete advices, and the order must be carefully observed. Their Honours' approbation is expected of the resolution passed on my motion in the Political Council on the 8th of January, that no sentences in the various Commandements should be submitted for confirmation to the Governor alone, but to him and the Council; as it seems to me that that is a despotic power which is not consistent with the place he holds. (47)

I have now come to the end of what I had to say with regard to this Government, and I would only desire Your Honour not to divert from what I have prescribed here without obtaining the orders and approval of the Government at Batavia, whose better judgment will soon detect any mistakes I have made and give you their instructions accordingly; so that until such time you may take this memoir for your guidance in this important administration. I would also advise you, in order that you may obtain a better idea of what is to be done, to read through all the resolutions passed and all the letters sent and received during the

last twenty-five years or more, as also the correspondence with the Kandyan King ; because, although you have been here for many years as Dessave of Matara and Commandeur of Galle, you will find a great difference between the duties of these offices and those of the Chief Ruler of such an important Government as this. Of special importance is the resolution passed by the Council of India on the 30th November, 1681, which contains the basis on which their Honours decided, after long consideration, to establish this Government, and where the right of the Company to these territories is also proved. Your attention and perusal is further directed to the memoirs by the Honourable the Superintendents, now called Governors-General, the late Joan Maatsuyker and Rykloff van Goens, to their successors, Governors Jacobus van Kittenstyn and Jacob Hustaart, bearing date 27th February, 1650, and 26th September, 1663, as also that compiled by the son of the said Governor van Goens, Rykloff van Goens, junior, at his departure, for Governor Laurens Pyl,* and to all further instructions, memoirs, and considerations ; but as the resolutions referred to contain the basis on which the present Government is founded, this and the memoirs compiled since that time by departing Governors, especially that by Governor Cornelis Joan Simonsz† will be of the greatest importance, and the resolutions passed and the letters received here since that date will also be very useful as a guide for your actions.

The Kandyan Court, which has been known from olden times for its capriciousness, seems to have become more and more unreliable, and has given me more annoyance than anything else ; as Your Excellency would see from the letters written to Batavia and to the Kandyan King and his Court. Matters even went so far, as Your Excellency knows, that hopes were given up of any ambassadors arriving at this castle before my departure, although it had been often stated that they would be sent. The answer brought back by the *Apuhamies* on their return from Kandy was very doubtful, as may be seen from their reports which have been inserted in the resolutions of Council of the 4th of this month. On that day it was agreed that a present to the value of 8,000 or 9,000 guilders should be offered to the

* These earlier memoirs of Maatsuyker, Rykloff van Geons, Kittenstyn, and Hustaart are reproduced in a more or less condensed form in Valentyn. It is a pity that the MS. originals, or copies which belonged to the Ceylon Archives, are no longer in existence. A copy of the younger Van Goens's Memoir, which, according to Valentyn, was unaccountably lost, was lately obtained from Holland by Mr. F. H. de Vos, and he has kindly permitted a translation of it to be made for the series now being translated for Government.

† See note on p. 9.

king on behalf of the Company; because it was doubtful whether any ambassadors would be sent, while notice was received that same day that our cinnamon peelers had been ordered in the name of the king to leave the Seven Korales without being allowed to take with them the cinnamon they had already cut. I therefore expected that I would have to leave without being able to do anything in this matter or to comply with the instructions from the Honourable the Indian Government contained in their letter of 2nd October last, where they desire me, after very complimentary expressions of satisfaction with my work here, to endeavour before my departure to pacify the said king and induce him to open the gravets. Your Excellency will understand how anxiously I looked forward to the arrival of the embassy, and how pleased I was when I was informed from Hanwella, on the 8th of this month, that an important embassy of four persons had arrived there. These ambassadors were Dodangwolle Ralehamy, Dessave of Saffragam, the Dehigamme Nanajackere Attepattoe Mohotiaar, Leupe Mohotiaar, and Hiembelagamme Muhandiram. It was expected that this embassy would be furnished with definite instructions, by which we might learn what it was that had displeased the king. I found out that it was chiefly the closing of the Ceylon harbours, especially that of Putulang; because in a very round-about way they requested that these harbours might be opened. We had no power to comply with this request of his Majesty, but I had to promise them that I would bring this matter before the Honourable the Indian Government, although I apprehended that they would never consent to the proposal. This, as Your Excellency knows, the embassy was sufficiently well made to understand. They seemed, however, very well pleased with the answer they received and the way they were entertained, especially the Dessave of Saffragam; and they promised to use their influence with the King and his Court to bring about the opening of the the gravets. At their last audience they even gave some hints as to which kind of soil pepper should be grown in, saying also that if the natives heard that we were willing to pay a little more for it they surely would cultivate this spice to a greater extent then they did at present.

Of all the above Your Excellency is fully aware, having been present at the conferences; so that I might easily have abstained from giving instructions on this subject, were it not for the importance of these matters and the fact also that all former Governors made mention of our dealings with this Court in the memoirs left by them. Although there was very little time left after the arrival of the said embassy, yet I did not wish to neglect this subject as I found done

in the memoir of Governor Laurens Pyl. Yet as the minutes of the long meetings with the embassy have been entered in the journal kept in this castle, I refer Your Excellency to the entries of the 13th and 14th of this month, where you will find the speeches of the ambassadors and the answers made by me on behalf of the whole assembly.

Extract from the Journal for 1734.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 13th of January, about 4 o'clock, the Kandyan Courtiers, Dodangwolle Ralehamy, Dessave of Saffragam, Dehigamme Nanajackara Attepattoe Mohotiaar, Leeupe Mohotiaar, and Hiembelangamme Muhandiram were received in this castle for an audience,* and, after having been introduced by the *Hoofd Administrateur* Abraham de Clercq, the Dessave Iman de Jonge, the Fiscal Frans Willem Falk, and the Secretary of the Committee Gerardus Cluysenaar, the Honourable Commissioner† asked the Maha Mudaliyar Louis de Sarram to inform Their Honours that His Excellency himself, Governor Dideric van Domburgh, and the members of the Political Council were much pleased with the safe arrival of the embassy within this castle, and further to inquire whether His Imperial Majesty was in good health at their departure from the Kandyan Court. To which they answered that they left His Majesty at their departure enjoying perfect health, sitting on his golden throne to rule for a hundred thousand years and to bestow numerous favours both on the Hollanders and on his own subjects without any distinction; upon which His Excellency answered, on his own behalf and that of Governor van Domburgh and the Political Council, that they were very glad to hear this, and that they wished His Imperial Majesty might reign for many years in perfect health on his golden throne. He then inquired whether they had also left the courtiers in good health, to which they replied in the affirmative. His Excellency expressed himself satisfied to hear this, and inquired whether the ambassadors had been received in the Company's territory with all respect due to them, and whether they had been properly entertained on their way; upon which they not only expressed great satisfaction with their reception and entertainment, but also at the fact that His Excellency should inquire about it. Being invited to sit down, they asked politely to be excused for a moment as they had to communicate some messages from His Majesty to His Excellency before doing so. Having obtained permission to speak, they first inquired on behalf of His Imperial Majesty after the health of His Excellency, of the Governor van Domburgh and the members of the Political Council, to which His Excellency answered that they were all well and ready to be of service to His Majesty, which they said they would communicate to His Majesty on their return to the Kandyan Court, being sure that this would give His Majesty great pleasure. After these preliminary compliments, they were again invited to sit down, and, being seated,

* These audiences took place at Government House in the Fort (St. Peter's Church), where the ambassadors were conducted in state every day from their temporary residence at Wolvendal. A fine representation of the large audience hall may be seen in the group painting of the audience given by Governor Falck in 1772, of which an enlarged photograph is hung up at the Colombo Museum Library.

† Mr. Jacob Christiaan Pielat.

His Excellency explained to them that he was sent here a year ago by the Honourable the Indian Government to introduce order into the confused state of affairs in this Island. As regards what concerned the Company's chief officers and other important matters, he had so far succeeded; but to his great regret he had not been able, as he had wished, to dissipate some of the disagreements which seemed to have arisen between the Kandyan Court and the Company. The Dessave of Saffragam Dondangwolle Ralehami then declared, not only that they were satisfied with this communication, but also that they had received further instructions from His Imperial Majesty to be submitted to His Excellency; and, having obtained leave to communicate these, he continued that the embassy from here with the Imperial letter and presents had arrived at Sitawaque, and intelligence of their arrival having been received at the Court His Majesty had sent several of his courtiers to receive them with all the respect due to them, and to accompany them to Ganoroewe. From there they had been conducted with all honours before His Majesty for an audience, when they communicated to him with due respect their message from the Honourable Commissioner. The king showed himself highly satisfied therewith, and lauded and praised the Honourable Commissioner. His Excellency, having expressed his obligation and pleasure, again thanked His Imperial Majesty for the honour bestowed on the said embassy by the giving of presents and the speedy return to their country. His Excellency declared that it was on this account that he now, on the arrival of the king's embassy, had sent his chief officers as a committee to receive them with all respect. The embassy here again offered their thanks. His Excellency then had it explained to them that formerly the relations between the Kandyan Court and the Honourable Company were always very good, and he had no doubt this time also matters would be settled without the least difficulty. To which the embassy replied that there was no doubt of this, adding that in the last letter from the Honourable Commissioner to His Majesty the King he had expressed his friendliness and readiness to be of service to His Imperial Majesty, at which the king had been much pleased and had spoken highly of the Honourable Commissioner. His Excellency again expressed himself much obliged and said he was sure that the newly appointed Governor van Domburgh and the members of the Political Council shared these friendly feelings and would be willing to prove this whenever they could. The embassy, in continuation, proceeded to state that in the last two letters from the Honourable Commissioner to the Kandyan Court, the one despatched by the hands of two and the other by four Apuhamys, His Excellency had repeated the promise of his willingness to be of service to the great Court and many other kind expressions, and that His Majesty was greatly pleased at this and highly praised the Honourable Commissioner. His Excellency again expressed himself obliged to His Majesty and said that what these letters contained came from his heart, and that he earnestly wished to carry out his promise. The embassy said they would communicate these expressions to His Majesty on their return to the Kandyan Court. They then began to somewhat change their tone, and pointed out in a very lengthy discourse how the Portuguese had been obliged to leave the Island because that, after they had got possession of this territory, they did not oblige the Court in any way, and how the king had then called in the Dutch as being the most friendly among the white people,

and how he had given them all the advantages and bestowed on them all the favours formerly enjoyed by the Portuguese. The Dutch, they said, had often obliged His Majesty; but during the last few years the Court had suffered much loss on account of the closing of the harbours, and especially that of the harbour af Putulang. In a letter sent from here to the great Court it was stated that this was done to prevent foreigners from entering and causing disturbances; but they assured His Excellency that when the harbours were open during the time of the former kings no enemy had ever entered there, nor had any disturbance been caused; and, although some merchants from the Coast came there for trade, they would have no power to do any mischief. The Honourable Commissioner said he was very sorry that the harbours had to be closed, but that it was a necessary precaution on the part of the Honourable Company, while it also served as a protection to His Majesty's territory. When the harbour of Putulang was closed in the year 1707 His Majesty had sent three of his courtiers, viz., Bogamuwe Ekenayke Mudaliyar, Dessave of the Seven and Three Korales, Wallawelle Nana Jacara Mohotiaar, Dessave of Dalasbage, and Gallegamme Mohotiaar, Dessave of Bintenne and Velasse, with some presents to the late Governors, the Honourable Mr. Cornelis Joan Simonsz and the Honourable Hendrick Becker, to thank them. His Excellency, therefore, could not agree now to have them opened again. Besides, neither he nor the Governor (van Domburgh) nor the Political Council, nor any one in the Island, had the power to do so, as it was a strict injunction of our Lords and Masters in the Fatherland, and His Excellency did not think they would ever consent to its re-opening, as it would be like placing a knife on one's own throat, for harm would be sure to come from it. The ambassadors said they could not believe that His Majesty would have sent the embassy referred to in thankfulness for the closing of the harbours, arguing that, even if some foreigners should come and attempt to do mischief, His Majesty and the Company together would be strong enough to destroy them, especially if they stood by each other like milk and water mixed together. His Excellency replied that they must not doubt what was said in the letters from the Honourable Company, for its word was sacred and looked upon as such by all the world; and that all the kings and other great princes in India with whom the Honourable Company had had to deal had never doubted its word yet; that it was true that if the Kandyan Court and the Honourable Company held together like milk and water and lived in harmony they would be sufficiently powerful against any other nation; but that as it had been the esteemed order of the authorities both in the Netherlands and in Batavia to keep the harbour of Putulang closed, neither he nor any one else, as already stated, had the power to open it. They did not reply to this statement, but said they had to make some other proposals, although the Honourable Commissioner said that it would be better to first come to an understanding with regard to this matter. They repeated what they had said before with regard to the Portuguese, adding that His Majesty the late King had looked upon the Dutch as the most reliable of all nations and sent his ambassadors both to the Netherlands and to Batavia to invite them to come to this Island; that since that time several valuable presents in the shape of beautiful horses and curios had been sent to the great Court by the Honourable Company and received by His Majesty before the closing of the harbours, but not so many since then; and that the great Court had

suffered many losses since the closing of the harbour of Putulang; so that because His Excellency had stated in his letter to the Kandyan Court that he would bring about an arrangement with regard to affairs at present in a state of confusion, and as His Excellency was to leave within a few days for Batavia, His Majesty had sent them specially here. They seemed to persist that the harbour should be opened, but His Excellency once again replied that the harbour had been closed with the knowledge of His Imperial Majesty on the orders of the Supreme authorities in the Netherlands and Batavia, and that therefore no one could alter this without the knowledge and approval of the said authorities; and that the Company's servants were just placed here like the ambassadors themselves, who could do nothing beyond the instructions of their king. They agreed that this was the truth, and requested that His Excellency would write to the Netherlands and Batavia and use his influence to obtain the desired result, which surely would be of advantage to the Company. His Excellency promised to bring their request before the Honourable the Government of India at Batavia, but said it was not to be expected that any change would be made soon, as it was a matter of great importance, and a considerable time would be taken before an answer could be received. With regard to the loss to the king's revenues, His Excellency said that these could not be less than in former years, especially because to please His Majesty half Rd. more for each ammonam of arekanut had been offered, while also, if the arekanut was of a good quality, all the king's surplus would be received, even if it came to 1,000 ammonams a year. He had to state with regret that, contrary to expectations, so far no answer had been received to this proposal, although it was not known to whom this negligence was due. The only answer of the embassy was that the Hon. Commissioner was a very prudent and successful man, and that they would repeat his statement on their return to the Court. His Excellency then declared that he could not understand why such a petty request as that of the opening of the gravets had not been granted; not because this was of so much importance to the Honourable Company(for a sufficient quantity of rice was always kept in the store-houses and the further provisions were brought from the Netherlands and Batavia, so that theCompany's servants did not suffer want),but because the opening of the gravets would be a boon to the poor inhabitants and to His Majesty's own subjects. The request would not have been made but for this reason, and because it seemed as if His Majesty had withdrawn his friendship from us and favoured us less, while, on the other hand, we had made every endeavour to please and satisfy the king. The closing of the gravets was therefore a very unkind proceeding, and our authorities would not know what to think of it. His Excellency had hoped to be in a position to inform Their Honours in his last letter to the Netherlands of the opening of the gravets, which would have been a token of His Majesty's friendship towards us; and it would still be so if they could use their influence to bring this about, so that Governor van Domburgh might write of the fact to Batavia. As they made no other reply but that they would inform the Court of this matter and that they hoped that the gravets would be soon opened, the Honourable Commissioner observed that as no positive answer could be obtained to these proposals, the matter was very unpleasant to the Company. It was, as is sometimes said, like walking round with a knife in one's body. It was also remarked that in spite of the beautiful presents sent both from the Fatherland and from Batavia, such a

petty request as this could not be granted, and he added that no more of these things could be sent as long as the gravets remained closed. The Dessave of Saffragam answered that the harbour of Putulang likewise remained closed in spite of the repeated requests to open it, to which the Honourable Commissioner replied that he could not understand why the king should press this point so much, telling them again by whose orders it was that it was closed, and that the king and his courtiers were evidently influenced by some malicious persons. To this the Dessawe replied asking whether if it were true that the harbour had been closed with the knowledge of the king, it would not be reasonable that it should be opened again at his request. To put an end to this troublesome discussion, and yet make them distinctly understand what he meant, the Honourable Commissioner said that if the gravets were not opened it would be impossible to see any signs of the king's goodwill towards the Netherlanders, while, on the other hand, the opening of them would be considered a token of friendship. As to the harbour of Putulang, that could not be opened for the reason stated, and, besides, the Company would want to know why the king was so particular about it, as it was against the policy of the Company to now open and again close such a place of importance. The Dessave, seeing that he could obtain no other answer, agreed to convey this message to His Imperial Majesty on his return to the Court. On being asked whether they had any other proposal to submit from the king. they said they had no other instructions. Wherefore the Honourable Commissioner, putting an end to this subject, told them that within a few days an embassy of two persons would be sent from here, consisting of the Chief Captain of this castle, Mr. Daniel Agreen, a cousin of His Excellency's friends at Batavia, and *Onderkoopman* Martin Weyer, as second ambassador, together with a brother-in-law of His Excellency van Domburgh, Mr. Johannes Engelbert, as Scriba, to add to the dignity and splendour of the embassy, which will take to the Kandyan Court the Imperial letter and various presents collected for the purpose. He had no doubt they would be received by the Dessave and the other courtiers with all the honour and respect due to them. His Excellency said he had to tell them something for which he asked their close attention, and they willingly assenting to this, His Excellency said that the king's word was held to be of great power and always reliable, or, as it is sometimes called. sacred ; so that no one would ever doubt it. Last year His Majesty had the kindness to grant to the Company the liberty of peeling cinnamon in his territory at the request of an embassy sent from here, but in spite of this we had to suffer the indignity of having our cinnamon peelers, who were working in the Seven Korales, driven away before finishing their work. We think this may have happened without the knowledge of His Majesty, although his name was mentioned as the authority. It is possible that some underlings who wished to make mischief were at the bottom of the matter. His Excellency therefore now requested that this matter should be carefully investigated on their return to Kandy. It was to be remembered that although we, as the Company's servants, always endeavour to please and serve His Imperial Majesty, and are in a certain sense his servants, we are by no means his slaves. His Excellency therefore put it to them what our Supreme authorities both in the Netherlands and in Batavia would think of such incidents, and he urged that His Majesty would be good enough to see that such things did not

occur in future. The reply was that they never heard anything about this matter until now, and that they supposed that some evil-minded persons where at the bottom of it. They would report the matter to His Majesty on their return to the Court. His Excellency continued, saying that the fugitives of the Hina Korale who had been brought back ought to have been severely punished for their disobedience, but instead of that they had been acquitted at the request of the Kandyan Court. This proved how ready the Company always was to oblige the Court. We had also heard that there were still some of the chief rebels from the same korale in the king's territory, but we did not mind whether they came back or not. Yet His Excellency requested that if any such people arrived there in future they might be sent back. To this they replied that it was true that some of the said inhabitants had come to the Court, as they used to do when they had any difficulties, but that most of them had returned to their *aldeas*, as they were advised to do, with the exception of a few who remained at the Court and were granted lands for their subsistence, as had been done formerly. They desired that His Excellency would pardon the fugutives who returned to the said korale, as they had no doubt that theywould in future perform their duties without any trouble. The Honourable Commissioner asked whether a certain freeman from Galle, named Jan Bello, through whom two Europeans had been punished with death and others had been grossly maligned, had not been arrested in the Kandyan territory. It was also said that a certain person, who had run away from Catoene, was also to be found there. To this the Dessave replied that about a month ago, after the receipt of the letter from Colombo in which the delivery of the said Jan Bello was requested, the man had been captured in his Dessavony in the Colonna Korale and had been despatched to the Court and was imprisoned there ; but as no further request had been made for his transprot he had not been sent yet. The Honourable Commissioner expressed his satisfaction with this information and desired that with the consent of His Majesty the said Jan Bello might be sent here to receive his due punishment. They replied that they would consult the courtiers about this matter. His Excellency then said that lately two Appuhamies named Ranwalle and Wellipittiye Appuhamy from the Dassavony of Saffragam had arrived here and had requested the grant of lands for their maintenance, but that they had been detained here until it could be found out whether they had committed any offence in His Majesty's territory and were thus fugitives. The Dessave replied that they had heard that these people had come here, but that they were only common persons. The embassy was however obliged for the information. His Excellency then inquired whether they would not like to return to their lodgings to rest, as it was late and their residence was rather far off, and they would again be called to-morrow or the day after for a final audience before taking their departure. Then also any other matter could be dealt with. He left it to them, however, to decide. They replied, that as there were no more matters to decide it would be well if His Excellency should send for them to-morrow afternoon for a farewell audience, and then allow them to take their departure for Kandy the day after. To this His Excellency agreed, and they were then treated, according to the custom of the country, to betel and arekanut, and, after being sprinkled with rose water by the Honourable Commissioner and by Governor van Domburgh, were escorted back to their residence at Grandpass at night about half past eight o'clock, with the same ceremony and pomp with

which they had arrived, being accompanied by the Dessave Iman de Jonge, Captain Daniel Agreen, Fiscal Frans Willem Falck, and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Gerardus Cluysenaar. The conference had lasted four hours, and the Committee returned to the castle at about ten o'clock.

It having been decided, in terms of yesterday's interview, to receive the Kandyan embassy for a parting audience on Thursday afternoon, 14th Jannary, the Honourable Commissioner authorized Mr. Iman de Jong, Dessave, Daniel Agreen, Chief Captain of the Castle, Frans Willem Falck, Fiscal, and Gerardus Cluysenaar, Secretary, to proceed to Wolvendal in two carriages to fetch and escort the courtiers from Grandpass to this castle. The regiments of Hand Grenadiers, Hautboyists and Pipers, under command of the Lieutenant Carel Verrys and the Ensign Albertus Linklaan, as well as the Lascoreens of the Guard, were in attendance. The embassy, having arrived with this escort before the residence of His Excellency at about five o'clock, were ushered into the audience hall to the presence of the Honourable Commissioner, the Governor-elect, Mr. Dideric van Domburgh, and the assembled Council. His Excellency inquired after their health, and they replied that they had been much honoured yesterday by His Excellency and that they were quite well, at which His Excellency expressed himself well pleased and stated that he had consulted with Mr. van Domburgh and the Council members as to what matters should be treated of to-day, and inquired of them whether they were willing to listen. On their assenting to this, the Honourable Commissioner said that he considered the friendship and harmony between His Imperial Majesty and the Honourable Company to be as firm as a hand-clasp. The ambassadors agreed that it was so. His Excellency, continuing, said that they hoped that even if some evil-minded persons tried to work mischief in order to disturb this harmony, His Imperial Majesty would take no notice thereof. This message they undertook to convey to His Majesty, saying that they also hoped that the friendship between His Majesty and the Honourable Company would remain as it had always been before. His Excellency replied that if the Company could be relieved of some vexations, its servants would be willing to risk even their lives to oblige His Majesty. The ambassadors replied that the Honourable Commissioner was a wise and successful governor, whose loyalty and good intentions towards His Majesty they would not fail to report on their return to the Kandyan Court. His Excellency expressed his satisfaction at this and said that it would give him great pleasure if Governor van Domburgh would be in a position to write, by the ship that was to leave a month after his departure for Batavia, that the friendship between His Majesty and the Honourable Company was like the sun which gives light to the world, and their respective subjects lived in harmony and peace together. The Dessave of Saffragam, as the chief ambassador, replied that they also hoped that the affairs between His Majesty and the Honourable Company would run smoothly, and promised to do all in his power to bring this about, while the Honourable Commissioner declared that he and Governor van Domburgh would do all they could to please His Imperial Majesty. He inquired what particular presents and what kind of horses would best please His Imperial Majesty, so that these might be sent for to the Fatherland and other far off countries; because it would be disappointing to the Company and its servants if they sent to Persia, Mocka, Cormandel, and other places to

obtain these presents at great cost, and that in the end they should not please His Majesty. The Dessave replied that anything considered useful to His Majesty would please him. The Hon. Commissioner said that last year two good and beautiful horses had been sent, but they heard with regret that they did not please His Majesty. The Dessave answered that the animals did please His Majesty, but one of them got ill repeatedly and became lame in one of its forelegs. It had therefore to be treated at the Court, though until now it had not been cured. His Majesty could therefore make no use of it. The Honourable Commissioner said that when the horses which they had ordered arrived they would be forwarded to His Majesty immediately, without waiting for the usual embassy. His Excellency further said that in proof of the Company's friendship towards His Majesty he would allow the ambassadors themselves to go to the stables and see whether there were there any horses which would please the king. He also wished to know whether His Majesty preferred a Dutch, Moorish, or any other saddle. The Dessave replied that the Captain of Caliture (who was probably one van Amstel) some years ago, when he went as ambassador, presented a saddle which suited His Majesty very well. His Excellency said that on his arrival at Batavia he would see that a beautiful saddle was made for the king. The Dessave said it would be sure to please the king. The Honourable Commissioner, in continuation, said that the Honourable the Government of Batavia had given instructions that in future 2 rds. more per bale than the price usually paid was to be paid for the Sinhalese pepper which was sent here from Calpetty by His Imperial Majesty, and he asked the embassy to see that this pepper was sent. He also wished to inform them that Their Honours had recommended the cultivation of pepper as a means of promoting the prosperity of the inhabitants, as very good results had been obtained from it on the coast of Mallabaar, where it had been cultivated with little difficulty. They said they would convey this not only to the courtiers but also to his Majesty, there being no doubt that the natives would be induced to the cultivation by such liberal payment. The Dessave said that pepper must not be planted on sandy or brackish soil, but always on moist soil, adding that the pepper which had been last sent from Calpetty had however not been appreciated by the Company as well as the chiefs would have wished. After a long discourse on the subject of this cultivation, that of the arekanut brought to Calpetty in the year 1731, and still lying there, was taken up. The Honourable Commissioner desired that the ambassadors would be pleased to see that even if there were not many good nuts among them they may yet be sorted and the good ones delivered to the Company, for which payment would be made, while the bad ones were burnt, as the Company cannot by any means accept these, since heaps of them have to be yearly destroyed. This happened again only lately with a large quantity, much to the loss of the Company. His Excellency asked further that more arekanut, even as much as 1,000 ammonams, may be sent yearly from His Majesty's surplus, besides the other or *Bottiqueros** nuts, for

* "*Bottiqueros*" is the Indo-Portuguese form of the word *boticario*, an apothecary or vendor of small wares. The use of the word *botica*, from which the word *boutique* has come into our local vocabulary would seem to have been peculiar to Portuguese India. (*See* Vieyra's Portuguese Dictionary by do Canto, and Yule and Burnell's "Glossary of Anglo-Indian Words and Phrases.") The nuts referred to were probably those specially selected for medicinal purposes.

which, if they were good and really from the royal store, half a rix-dollar more or 3½ rds. per ammonam would be paid. The other nuts will be bought at the usual price, because the Company cannot afford to pay for bad and spoilt nuts, nor have the officers at Calpetty the right to do so. If these officers had treated the Wannias or others badly, they would be punished. His Excellency therefore wished to know whether the officers at the time, the *Opperhoofd* Potken and the Council, had treated the men who delivered the arekanuts badly or unreasonably. The Dessave answered that he had heard no complaints about these officials at the time, and that he had to consult with the other courtiers about this matter of the arekanuts. The Honourable Commissioner then asked whether they would join in drinking the health of the king on his golden throne with a glass of wine, while the cannon were being fired. They replied that they had no objection, as it seemed to be the custom of the Dutch of showing their affection, and the same had been done by the former Governors. His Excellency then declared that the heart and affections of the former Governors had also been with His Majesty, and that every one would try to do that which would please him. All rose, and while fifteen guns were being fired the Honourable Commissioner, H. E. the Governor van Domburgh, and the Council members drank a glass of wine each, proposing the health of the king. His Excellency desired that the embassy which is shortly to be sent by the Company would not be delayed, as their services are required here. The Kandyan ambassadors replied that they would do their best to meet His Excellency's wishes. His Excellency then stated that as the Maha Mudaliyar Louis de Saram was now very old and on account of his ill-health no longer able to perform his duties, although he would again accompany the embassy to Kandy this time, a second interpreter, the Mohotiar from Galle, Bastiaan de Zilva Wanigesekere, would be sent, so as to gradually qualify him to serve the interests both of His Majesty and the Honourable Company; and he begged of the ambassadors to receive him kindly and to be a little indulgent towards him in the matter of Court etiquette. The Dessave of Saffragam said that it was true that the Maha Mudaliyar had come to the Kandyan Court for many years in succession as interpreter, when he had always performed his duties satisfactorily, and that it was right that he should have the rest necessary on account of his illness and old age, and that they would assist the second interpreter, Bastiaan de Zilva, as much as possible. They hoped to receive an answer with regard to the matter of the harbour of Puttulang soon after the arrival of the Honourable Commissioner at Batavia. His Excellency answered that neither he nor Governor van Domburgh could decide this matter; that it might take years before a reply from the Fatherland was received; and that the reasons urged for the closing of the harbour were sure to satisfy His Majesty. He wished he had sufficient time to discourse at length on this subject, but it would take at least ten days to state all that had been written with regard to this matter. To this they only answered that they looked forward for an answer. His Excellency inquired when they intended to begin their return journey, and whether they would like to stay a few days longer. To which they replied that they had carried out the instructions they received from His Majesty, and, having received our answer, they intended to start on their return journey to-morrow morning if His Excellency would allow them. His Excellency said that in that case he would send the Dessave and a Committee

to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock to escort them with due honour to Sitawake, asking them to convey his and Governor van Domburgh's thanks to His Imperial Majesty when they arrived at the Court for the sending of his ambassadors and for his good wishes for their health and prosperous rule and the preservation of their mutual friendship. He also asked them to give their best regards to the chief courtiers, which they graciously promised to do, and in return asked when His Excellency intended to depart for Batavia. His Excellency replied that he would leave in about eight or nine days. They said they asked this merely to be in a position to answer in case His Majesty should ask them that question. His Excellency then gave them to understand that some presents had been prepared for them and their retinue, and he asked them to accept these. They replied that the offer of such a gift was a sufficient honour to them, and begged to be excused from the acceptance. Yet they ended by consenting to accept the things, upon which, as a greater honour, His Excellency personally hung a golden chain round their necks and presented other articles to them and their retinue, wishing them a safe return and sprinkling them with rose water. They were offered betel and areka-nut, and for all of these they expressed their thanks. They were then, in the evening, at about half-past eight, escorted back in carriages to the Pass of Naklegam with the same ceremony as when they arrived, by the Dessave Iman de Jonge, Mr. Daniel Agreen, Daniel Overbeek, and Gerardus Cluysenaar, under the firing of three salvos of 25 guns from the walls of the castle, the hand-grenadiers and lascoreens of the guard however remaining at Wolvendal and returning within the walls of the castle with the Committee at about half past ten."

The above will, I hope, prove that I received the embassy with all due courtesy and that I tried to satisfy them, while at the same time I made them distinctly understand that the Company passed by many petty annoyances for the sake of peace, and also that we will be their servants, but not their slaves. It is to be hoped that this will have good results; so that Your Excellency may have a better time with this Court during your rule than, I regret to say, I had. Your Excellency is aware of, and the minutes of the conferences bear witness to, the fair promises which the said ambassadors made; yet it is not advisable to depend too much on these, because the capriciousness of the king and his courtiers has been our long experience ever since we had a footing in this Island, and it has not decreased yet. Every means must therefore be employed that, without proving an obstacle to the Company's interests in the future, will tend to keep the king in a good mood. The yearly presentation must not be omitted so long as His Majesty does not hinder us from the peeling of cinnamon. The presents and the accompanying letter must always be sent by persons of suitable ability and gentle and pacific manners, because we have noticed that such persons, when holding fairly high office in the Company's service, are most kindly received. I have no

doubt, therefore, that the two persons, besides the Scriba, who have been this time nominated, will meet with a kind reception, and I expect that they will carry out their instructions to the best advantage of the Company, and that they will also carefully observe the customs and usages of the country. In this they will be greatly assisted by the old and well-experienced interpreter, Louis de Saram. A second interpreter will have to be appointed in place of the Mohotiar Bastiaan de Zilva Wannigesekere, who was nominated for this post, but who has since died; so that Mudaliyar de Saram may enjoy the necessary rest in his old age, as was promised him in our meeting of the 4th instant. Your Excellency must not forget, in concluding the letter to be sent to the king, to express my and your own pleasure for the sending of this important embassy, and to inform His Majesty that his embassy has conveyed to us his message, and that we have replied to it as was consistent with reason and our own power. Because, as His Majesty is aware, faithful servants can go no further than the instructions of their masters allow them to do; but that we have no doubt that His Majesty will be satisfied with our answer, and will have heard from his embassy how graciously they were received and in how much esteem we hold him. Your Excellency might also add the assurance of your willingness to oblige him whenever possible, and that neither you nor I have any doubt that the good reports brought by his embassy and through their influence the relations between the great Court and the Honourable Company will be put on such a footing as I had wished to see before my departure, and now hope to hear of at the first opportunity from Your Excellency, viz., that the friendship between the King and the Company is as great as it has always been; so that Their Honours, our Supreme authorities in the Netherlands, may be assured that as long as the sun and moon stand in the firmament (which is one of their phrases) the Kandyan King and the Honourable Company will be united like sweet milk and pure water mixed together. Your Excellency may also inform the king, thanking him on my behalf for all courtesies paid to me, that I will see that he is presented with beautiful horses, a costly saddle, and what further is required, so that they may be worthy to be used by him. Your Excellency may here conclude these compliments by saying that you will not lengthen your letter, as I have spoken to his embassy for two days in succession, adding that you are sending an important embassy with as beautiful presents as could be collected, and that you hope he will be pleased with them, and that we look forward to his renewed license for the peeling of cinnamon in his forests and for the transport

of our elephants by way of Putulang. He must also be asked to deliver up Jan Bello to us to receive his due punishment, as he has been the cause of a Dutchman of quality losing his life, and of another suffering on the scaffold.* You might also address His Majesty direct and request that no attention be paid at the great Court to the complaints of the inhabitants of the Hina korale, as it is impossible for the Honourable Company to suffer such insults, especially from its own subjects, without showing its displeasure; while it was also very unpleasant for the Company to have heard on the 4th instant that the inhabitants of the Seven Korales had driven away our Chalias who were doing their work after the king had given his permission, and that if such occurred again we would not know what to do or how to trust the king's word. (47)

Nothing remains for me now but to wish Your Excellency the blessing of God Almighty, together with health and strength to carry on this difficult Government to the best advantage of the Company, to the peace of the inhabitants, and to your own fame. Therefore, Sir, be always strict and attentive, rewarding the good, protecting the poor and oppressed, and punishing the evil-doers.

Wishing you all those things which you may pray for to Heaven, I conclude this memoir.

Remaining, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. C. PIELAT.

In the Castle of Colombo, in the Island of Ceylon, January 23, 1734.

The following are comments on the Memoir or Report of the Commissioner His Excellency Jacob Christiaan Pielat, Extraordinary Councillor of India, on the state of affairs in Ceylon, compiled in compliance with our orders, for the guidance of His Excellency's successor, Mr. Diderick van Domburgh, in his new sphere as Governor and Director of that important Island, of which a copy† has been handed to the latter by His Excellency on his departure from there. This memoir has been approved in the Council of India, and it has been decided that all those points which have not been commented upon, in as far as no change in circumstances occurs in the course of time, should be strictly observed

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* See *ante*, p. 16.

† The original as well as a copy of it is preserved in the Archives at Colombo. The first page of the original is unfortunately missing.

both by the Governor of Ceylon, Mr. Diderick van Domburgh, and the Political Council of Colombo :—

(1) We expect that Your Excellency has already commenced the execution of the orders left by the Honourable Commissioner Mr. Pielat with regard to the scrutiny of the duties and services of the respective officers in the Island. In case this has not been done we desire that steps to that end be taken as soon as possible and the result communicated to us, so that further direction may be made on the subject.

(2) *For the Chief-Administrator (Hoofd Administrateur) as well as the Administrators of Jaffnapatm, Galle, Tutucorin, Trincomalee, and Colpetty.*

Whereas, according to the statement of His Excellency the Special Commissioner, the practice in Colombo of the orders being signed by the *Opper Koopman* and Chief Administrator is against the rules, and as no proof is forthcoming, either here or in Ceylon, that this has been ordered or approved here, this practice must be abolished and the old usage followed, as is done in all outstations in India. In future all such orders must be signed by the Governor in his quality of Director, and by the Commandeurs or Chiefs of subordinate outstations,* as proposed by His Excellency the Commissioner, care being taken to avoid extravagance with regard to the supplies issued, which would be to the prejudice of the Company.

(3) For which purpose Your Excellency is recommended to continue the rule introduced by His Excellency the Commissioner and passed by resolution of 29th December, 1733, not only to prevent all fraud with regard to the requisites, but also with a view of making it possible to see at a glance for what purpose the articles are required.

(4) *For the Visite Comptoir.*—Although the above rule must be applied also to the Sale Accounts of the ships arriving here, yet these must also be made up by the *Visitateur* according to the old practice.

(5) We desire that our orders should be strictly carried out with regard to three special account books being kept for the entering of all items, namely, one for the *Negotie*, one for the *Visite*, and one for the *Soldy Comptoir*,† according to the instructions sent to Your Excellency with regard to the employés in these offices both from here and from the Netherlands, and in spite of all objections which may be raised.

(6) *The Visite Comptoir.*—With regard to the verification of the Trade Accounts, we refer here again to our instructions of 2nd October, 1733, which are to be carried out without the slightest alteration.

(7) Whereas this point regarding the duties of the Chief Administrator is included in the instructions for the control of the Company's servants, we will defer our decision on the subject until the receipt of the report thereon from His Excellency the Commissioner, after which definite instructions will be given which are then to be strictly adhered to.

(8) *For the Courts of Justice at Jaffnapatam and Galle.*—We approve of the annexed‡ proposals for remedying the careless and awkward

* Viz., Jaffnapatam and Galle.

† These were respectively the Trade, Audit, and Pay Offices.

‡ The word "annexed" is used here because, in the original memoir, the comments of the Batavian Government were inscribed on the margin of the record.

manner in which cases are conducted by the Court of Justice, provided the voluminous processes of importance are circulated among the members, in order that, on their being read in Council, they may vote on these with greater certainty.

(9) We approve of the annexed proposal in cases of emergency, but otherwise it will be best to confine the Court of Justice to the permanent members, all their available time being as far as possible devoted to this purpose.

(10) *For the Fiscal.*—We cannot agree to the permanent appointment of two Kaffirs as assistants to the jailor for the guarding of the criminal prisoners. We consider that such appointment should be made only in case of urgent necessity, and even then only temporarily; while they must never be allowed admittance to the prisoners alone, but always in presence of the jailor, so as to prevent any conspiracies. The jailor alone must be held responsible, as the Kaffirs cannot be trusted.

(11) We approve of this advice to the Governor to keep a close scrutiny to prevent abuses in the prison by the Fiscal, and also seriously recommend this matter to the attention of the President of the Court of Justice, the latter being bound, as Head of that Department, to assist in the prevention of irregularity and impropriety in the administration of justice.

(12) The advice of His Excellency Mr. Pielat with regard to the practice of strict economy and the observance of His Excellency's wholesome rules with regard to the matter of barrels, &c., is fully approved.

(13) The restoration of the impaired fortifications is seriously recommended to Your Excellency's attention, the most necessary repairs being carried out first.

(14) Your Excellency's attention is directed to the timely repair of ships lying there, and the building of new vessels to replace the worn out and demolished ships. The old vessels must be used as long as possible, in order not to unnecessarily increase the Company's expenditure, which is already so very heavy.

(15) We approve not only of the advice of the Honourable Commissioner Mr. Pielat to Governor van Domburgh, but also of the rules introduced by him with regard to the clerks, military, and trainbands.

(16) *For the Court of Justice, and also for those at Jaffnapatam and Galle.*—In the application of the amendments in the law in the placaat of 26th May, 1732, against thieves and beggars, as also in that against the clandestine trade in spices and arekanut, the judge must be careful not to put too much reliance on the statement of the accusers, but should make careful investigation, with a view to prevent accusations being brought with evil intent and personal spite.

(17) We approve the recommendation of His Excellency the Commissioner with regard to the Company's cultivated and uncultivated lands, as also with regard to the compilation of a new Thombo or Land Register of the fields in the Colombo District, in which should be also entered clear and correct maps, by which may be seen at a glance which lands belong to the Company but are yet uncultivated and which have been given out for cultivation, as also which are held by the inhabitants as *parvenie* or otherwise, with a view to enable us to decide what had best be done with these in the interests of the Company and to give our instructions to Your Excellency accordingly.

(18) *For Galle.*—As the annexed project for digging up, &c., in the district of Divitore appears to us to be a work of greater labour and expenditure than the rough estimate shows, and as we do not think that the result will justify the expectations, we cannot meet your wish in the matter ; but we authorize Your Excellency to have this work done by the natives at their own expense, if they are disposed to do so, under promise that the Company will give them such recognition as they deserve after completion of the work.

(19) With regard to the pepper cultivation we recommend to Your Excellency the observance of the directions our lords and masters laid down in their letter of 8th September, 1733, an extract of which is annexed.

(20) *For the Dessave of Galle.**—We hope that the inability to deliver the required quantity of cardamom will only be temporary, and that the difficulty will be removed with the opening of the gravets. Your Honour must encourage the natives in the cultivation of this aromatic product ; so that in the course of time the required quantity may be obtained from the Company's own territory, according to the projects of Their Honours our superiors. In order to further this object it has been agreed that Your Honour should be authorized to raise the price of the article, and, with a view to make sure that the inhabitants receive their payment without deduction, the payment must be made to the cultivators themselves, either by yourself or by the Captain† of the Galle Korale in the presence of a Committee to be appointed for the purpose by the Governor. This rule must be strictly observed, so that the people may not be discouraged in this profitable cultivation. Orders have been received from our superiors in the Netherlands not to give up the cultivation although the seeds last planted proved a failure, as they hope that the planting of the 25 pounds of seed now ordered from Mallabaar will be more successful and prove equally satisfactory to us as to themselves. That they attach great importance to this article may be seen in the extract from the letter from the Fatherland.

(21) *For the Dessave of Galle.*— With regard to what is said here of the cultivation of indigo, Your Honour must make every endeavour to promote the enterprize, although to our regret it has been so far without success.

(22) *For the Dessave of Galle.*—Since the abolishing of the office of Overseer of the Coffee Cultivation at the request of the natives has had such good results, as, according to their promise, more coffee was delivered last year than the year before, we hope that when the crop is good they will continue in the same way, which will make the appointment of a Dutch Overseer unnecessary.

(23) With regard to the cinnamon a description will be found in the annexed letter.

(24) *For Galle.*—The annexed instructions with regard to the collection of the required cocoanut oil or the arrears thereof from the inhabitants in default must be strictly carried out, and the delinquents punished according to the laws of the country.

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* The Dessave of Galle was the local Chief of Matara. He held rank in the Commandents of Galle next to the Commandeur.

† Also styled "Opziender" or Superintendent. He was the rural Lieutenant of the Commandeur for the Galle District, a position somewhat analogous to that of the Dessave of Colombo.

(25) We not only approve what is said here with regard to the delivery of nely to the Company, but we also seriously recommend Your Honour to urge the native chiefs to pay up their arrears so that the Company may receive its dues.

(26) The annexed instructions with regard to the keeping in store of a sufficient quantity of rice for two years must be strictly followed, in order that Your Excellency may be in a position to supply Trincomalee and Batticaloa without any inconvenience, when Jaffnapatam cannot do so. No doubt Your Excellency has already, in compliance with the instructions of the Honourable Commissioner, ordered the officials at Jaffnapatam to purchase in time a sufficient quantity of rice at a reasonable price from the Moorish merchants who come there from Caits, not only for a whole year for that place itself, but also for the two stations just mentioned, and especially for the garrison, so that these may suffer no want.

(27) Although only a small quantity of arekanut was received during the year 1732–1733, the instructions of the Honourable the Commissioner for obtaining a larger quantity must be carried out. The rule followed in 1717 must be again introduced, so as to obtain a larger quantity for sale in Coromandel from the up-country people, which will increase the revenue of the Company.

(28) We leave the matter of disposing of this large quantity of so called royal-tribute arekanut entirely to Your Excellency's discrimination. Much difficulty has been raised by the Kandyans with regard to these, and we wish to give them no more cause for displeasure on that account.

(29) *For Tutucorin.*—Although we had expected that, according to our instructions of 2nd October, 1733, the price of *guinees* and *salempoeris*,* raised in 1732 to 9⅔ per cent., would be reduced to the former rate, and the Honourable the Commissioner only succeeded in reducing it by $3\frac{1}{11}$ per cent., yet we have to express our satisfaction with the zeal shown by him in the matter. No doubt Your Excellency will also make every endeavour to bring about the desired reduction, in which we hope you will succeed, especially if there is an abundant crop of grain and cotton on the coast of Madura, which we hope will contribute towards the fulfilling of the contracts for the delivery of cotton goods both to the Netherlands and to India. We recommend to Your Excellency the continuation of the practice of sending some military to Tutucorin for the protection of the merchants there against the vexatious extortions of the regents. We see to our satisfaction in the letters to the Netherlands that this, with the increase of the community by three experienced merchants and the constant reminders given to the merchants by our officials at Tutucorin, has had the effect that 1,510 bales of different cotton goods and thread were delivered, which is 659 bales more than the year before, besides 475 bales for India, which is 25 bales more than formerly.

(30) *For Jaffnapatam and Tutucorin.*—Since the growth of the pearl oysters on the banks of the Ceylon and Madura coast does not depend on earthly agencies we must be content with the unfavourable report received thereof. We also accept the excuse for the non-observance of our instructions of 2nd October, 1733, with regard to the summons to all native chiefs to be present at the meeting of Council for the matter to be presented to them, because Your Excellency considers

* See *ante*, p 25.

that impossible to do for the reasons stated in your letter of 30th November, 1733, to the Netherlands. We approve of the course introduced by Your Excellency, which must be continued in future. The pearl banks must be again inspected in February and March as was formerly done. The weather is more suitable for an inspection at that time than any other, so that the work can be carried out with less inconvenience. The inspection in autumn must be revived as soon as the Commissioners consider the pearl banks in a condition to make a dive possible in the following year, so as to enable Your Excellency to order it with greater assurance.

(31) Although the sale of elephants during the year 1732-1733 has not been as satisfactery as during the year before, with a difference of three of these animals, representing an amount of 1,081 rixdollars, yet, for the reasons stated by Your Excellency in your letters to the Netherlands, we express our satisfaction with the result, hoping that the sale may be better next year, and that the Company may be able to dispose of all the elephants instead of having to keep some again. We see to our regret that the number of animals at present in our stables consists of twenty-nine elephants besides the twenty used for hunting, which number will be considerably increased when the tributes and arrears from Matara, the Wanni, and the hunters in Pringaly, &c., are received. The tributes having been reduced, in compliance with the orders of the Honourable the Commissioner, every effort must be made to collect all that is due by contract, as arrears, &c.

(32) With regard to this matter we can only say that we will wait for the result of the last sown Persian *Ruinas** seed.

(33) Every effort must be tried to make the cultivation of dye-roots more successful, which would give great satisfaction, not only to ourselves, but also to Their Honours our *Majores* in the Netherlands.

(34) Although the experiments with the Kirman goats were unsuccessful, we hope for better results in the future, as considerable profit is expected from the breeding of these animals.

(35) *For Jaffnapatam and Tutucorin.*—In our letter of 12th May last we expressed our satisfaction with the seizing of the three Moorish smuggling vessels and the capture of the Moorish smugglers found thereon and the punishment inflicted on one of them. We herewith order that the chank banks should be protected in future by two of the Company's vessels, or, if these are not available, by two native crafts manned by European military. Every unlicensed vessel found about these banks must be stopped and searched, and when implements for diving are found on board, the vessel must be confiscated and the crew locked in chains. With a view to this order being the more carefully executed we authorize Your Excellency to grant to those who thus seize any such vessel a reward consistent with the Company's means.

(36) We were very pleased to hear that the efforts made by the Honourable the Commissioner to promote this enterprise, viz., silkworm breeding, have at last been successful. We hope that the present favourable state of things will not only continue but that the prospects will considerably improve, so that we may later on authorize Your Excellency to erect a building where the worms can be kept and the silk reeled. For the present we decide to suspend this work until we receive further reports of the progress of the enter-

* See note on page 29.

prize. We send herewith the report of the silk dealer Jan Venendaal on the nine skeins of silk brought here by the Honourable the Commissioner. We also send at your request the following persons to assist in the breeding of silkworms, viz.:—

Johan Coenraad Wettig.
Roelof Lind.
Samuel Thoen.

These persons bring with them all implements required for the work, and they will show Your Excellency how the cocoons are to be unwound and how the silk must be sent here for further operations. They also bring instructions as to how to treat the silkworms in disease, the further direction of this important work being left to your judgment, with authority to increase the pay of the silk spinners whenever they deserve it.

(37) *For Trincomalee.*—As the two pieces (of crystal) which arrived here by the vessel "Duynbeek" were examined by an expert and declared of no value, we consider this matter of no importance to the Company.

(38) As we have lately received by the vessel "Duynbeek" the considerations with regard to the breeding of horses from the officials at Jaffnapatam, in compliance with our instructions last year, we will send these and all papers concerning this matter at the first opportunity to the Netherlands to obtain the approval of Their Honours the Directors.

(39) Your Excellency will no doubt follow the recommendations offered.

(40) *For Jaffnapatam.*—We hope that the impoverished condition of the inhabitants of Jaffnapatam, as stated here, will soon change for the better, so that they may be able not only to pay up their arrears to the Company, but also pay their dues regularly in future. We consider the resolution of the Jaffnapatam officials quoted here as a good expedient by which to obtain the arrears, but with regard to the *Chikos* due for the years 1727–1728 and 1728–1729 we cannot as yet consent to discharge the people from these, because these are not taxes but fines imposed on them for failure to perform their vassal labour, which causes great inconvenience to the Company.

(41) *For Jaffnapatam and Galle.*—The Governor is the responsible person, and should be well informed on all matters relating to his Government, and must be able to judge for himself; but we agree that these visits should not be made except in the utmost necessity, and when they are required for the general welfare, or in order that the Governor may account for his rule. For vacancies of offices filled by natives in the outstations in Ceylon the names should be submitted by the respective Commandeurs or *Opper-Hoofden* and their Councils to the chief station, and such person be appointed as Your Excellency may consider most capable.

(42) This is a good order, and must be strictly observed.

(43) We expect that Your Excellency has already complied with this recommendation with regard to the collection and forwarding of the Ceylon instructions: if not, you must see this done as soon as possible.

(44) We are pleased to see that 132 of the natives who had fled from this korale have returned to their *aldeas* or villages on obtaining pardon, and have since performed their services. We hope that such occurrences will be prevented in future by careful and mild treatment, as these doings are disastrous to both parties. The Honourable

Commissioner has set a good example; but should the inhabitants take advantage of our kindness and refuse to perform their services or disregard our officers, Your Excellency must mete out such punishment as you will think necessary.

(45) The annexed concept having been virtually abolished by a later resolution of 19th January at Colomboe we confirm the latter in so far as it will not tend to the prejudice of the Company, hoping that the result may be for the best.

(46) *For the Clergy.*—With a view to carry out the good object of the Honourable the Commissioner with regard to promoting Christianity among the natives we approve of the establishment of a Sinhalese Printing Office, so that the New Testament may be printed in that language, and we hereby authorize Your Excellency to obtain all the necessary articles as stated in the report of the Rev. Messrs. Konyn and Wetselius and the late *Baas** of the Arsenal, Gabriel Schade. The latter, having offered his services again at the request of the Rev. Ministers, has been appointed to this work, and as a greater encouragement has been granted the same salary and emoluments as he received as *Baas* of the Arsenal, while his request that all necessaries should be provided will also be complied with. We hope that the worthy divines will also, according to their promise, devote themselves with all zeal and diligence to this work, on which we pray Heaven may grant its blessings.

(47) We not only agree with the recommendation of the Honourable the Commissioner with regard to the yearly forwarding of all cases determined in Ceylon, but we also approve of His Honour's proposal made in Council on the 8th January last, and the resolution passed thereon, that no sentences are in future to be confirmed by the Governor alone but by him and the Council, as this is a power which should be held only by an independent ruler or by persons specially authorized thereto, while we are not aware that such power was ever given to any of the Governors of Ceylon.

(48) With regard to the points dealt with in this memoir and in the letters of 19th May and 23rd January this year, we state here that we have observed with regret that notwithstanding all our courtesies and the valuable presents sent to this Court (Kandyan) Your Excellency has not been able yet to persuade the king to open the gravets without the granting on our side to His Majesty the free passage of the Putulang harbour as formerly. It seems to us also that the closing thereof is the chief reason of his displeasure, but the consent to the re-opening must never be given, even if he should keep the gravets closed on that account. We are informed that it will be better for the Company and less disadvantages if matters are left as they are at present. In such case we will follow the same course of action as was followed in the year 1715, which we found very successful. Not only did the king very soon cause the gravets to be opened on his own account, as the up-country people were prevented from bringing down their surplus of merchandise, but he also granted to the Company, in return for the permission to do this, the liberty of free peeling of cinnamon in his forests and the sending of elephants by the way of Putulang to Jaffnapatam. Both these matters are of great importance to the Company, and well worth the yearly presents made to the king, which we find will this year again amount to 5,095·5·8 guilders for

* Master or Superintendent.

various valuables and curios, which we hope will not only please His Majesty, but also convince him of our good intentions towards him. We hope that the offer made to him by the Honourable the Commissioner Mr. Pielat to increase the price of arekanut by half a rix dollar per ammonam will also contribute to the same end, although we would rather that this offer had not been made, as it may induce him in the course of time to urge a further increase. But since the matter cannot now be remedied we must wait and see whether His Majesty will accept this offer for the Calpetty arekanut on the conditions stated, which we hope with all our heart he will, so that there may be an end to this unpleasant affair. With a view to prevent this arekanut being considered of better quality than the other received by the Company on account of the considerable difference in price, we have decided to instruct Your Excellency that no more than the ordinary price should be paid for it by the merchants, in order that they may not be discouraged from coming here. This would increase the quantity in the Company's store, and therefore we do not at present desire to make any alterations in this matter.

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